

# THE TIMES

## Britain to use US design of pressurized water reactor to generate power

Government has decided to proceed with a nuclear power reactor, provided the plans met safety standards. Plans for the construction of the power station will be subject

to a public inquiry. The Government intends to start building its first pressurized water reactor in 1982 and the electricity supply boards want to order one nuclear power station a year from 1982 to 1992.

### Government emphasis on nuclear safety

Editor  
David Wright  
Government's decision to proceed with United States design of nuclear power reactor in the United Kingdom has been made by the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) to meet safety standards.

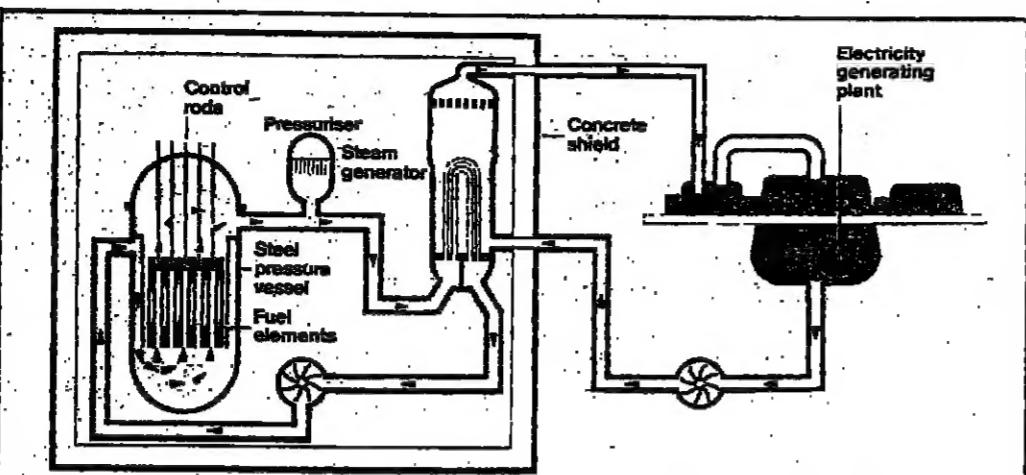
My consent will still be given for construction of a station on which work is to start in 1982 and I will be subject to inquiry.

Announcement of the was made in the Committee by Mr David Secretary of State for outlining long-term or the Government's power programme.

It is to start building a pressurized reactor in 1982. The by the Government is response to the decision of the electricity supply who have asked to at least one nuclear station a year in the 10 to 1982 at a total cost £20,000. Mr Howell precise level of ordered depend upon the extent of electricity demand performance of the in-

Commons, Mr Howell four documents on the Isle Island accident in the United States last March a pressurized water reactor. They were submitted to reports from the Installations Inspectorate and the Health and Safety Commission, the CEGB, the UK Atomic Authority and the Nuclear Corporation of these will arrange a pressurized water reactor, by the Westinghouse of the United States to be adapted for operation under British conditions, not the design used in Isle Island plant. Howell emphasized the importance attached to safety of nuclear power. He wanted to ensure lessons of Three Mile

Island had been learnt. The had been learnt. The



Fuel elements of uranium dioxide clad in an alloy of zirconium are arranged in clusters inside a steel pressure vessel containing ordinary water. That water is heated by the core of fuel elements and is pumped to a steam generator where it boils water

assessment given by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate was that the accident was largely the result of organizational and human failures compounded by some weakness in the design of the control room and its instruments. None of that cast doubt on the basic concept of the pressurized water reactor.

The National Nuclear Corporation considered the approach to safety requirements of the United States and of the United Kingdom. It pointed out the difference between the Westinghouse reactor and that at Three Mile Island. The Westinghouse reactor possesses safety advantages and further safeguards are to be provided in the adoption of that design to Britain.

The CEGB's view was that the accident had not disclosed any fundamental weakness in the concept of the pressurized water reactor or its basic engineering. The accident had developed because of weaknesses in detail design, safety analysis, performance of some components, and above all operator behaviour.

In the meantime, he said, the

Government attached importance to stimulating a strong and independent design and construction company in Britain, able to supply nuclear stations at home and abroad. For that reason the boards of the National Nuclear Corporation and its operating subsidiary, the Nuclear Power Company, will be brought together into a single-tier structure. A supervisory management agreement between the National Nuclear Corporation and the General Electric Company will be terminated.

After Mr Howell made his announcement, Dr David Owen, shadow energy secretary, said the Opposition wholeheartedly endorsed Mr Howell's view that the safety of nuclear power was the overriding factor. Having authorized two advanced gas cooled reactors, the Opposition continued to support a steady ordering programme of reactors providing it was carefully adjusted to meet energy demand forecasts and investment and expansion in the coal mining industry.

Leading article, page 13  
Business news, page 15

### Uzorewa delay ceasefire

signing of a Rhodesia ceasefire will be put off, Bishop Abel Uzorewa, Rhodesia Prime Minister, is holding final agreement by refusing to return to the signing ceremony. He is said unhappy at reports that Britain is the time needed to put a ceasefire into effect at the number of guerrillas allowed at assembly point. The Bishop

clarification on these questions. Page 6

### Ran assassination

Islamic theologian and supporter of Ayatollah Khomeini has been assassinated by gunmen. Ayatollah Khomeini, who was about to enter the Tehran seminary, His two bodyguards were killed later in hospital. No one has responsibility for the murders. Page 7

### Trudeau returns

Trudeau who decided to step down leadership of the Canadian Liberal after his defeat at this year's general election, has reversed his decision and will lead again at the forthcoming elections. Stated by the parliamentary leader of the minority government. Page 6

### Terrorists' jail break

have begun throughout Spain for five members of the left-wing terrorist group who tunneled their way out maximum-security prison in Zamora. Included three top leaders of the organization and are described by the police as "very dangerous". It took them several months to tunnel. Page 6

### Naming doctor jailed

Jean-Marie Paimpin, a Paris swimmer, has been sentenced to two years imprisonment in Clermont-Ferrand, fined 30,000 francs (£3,300), and ordered to pay 500,000 damages after the death of a girl he was treating. The prosecutor said it was a test for the "Dr Jekylls" who practise such Page 6

page 13  
Sports, pages 5, 9  
On Revenue powers of Mr Peter Hordern, and Mr Graham Don; our energy, from Mr M. M. and Dr R. Hawley taking against Iran, from Lord

articles: Nuclear power; news, pages 10, 12  
Berthoud looks at the difference facing Britain's bookers; Michael Hatfield, on new Tory MPs; Dr Tony on the hopeful future for

### Oil price rises of 30 pc likely after Opec discord

The price-fixing meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Caracas remained unable to agree on a new oil price structure. The gulf between the moderate and the hardline oil states did not narrow, and a wide spread of eventual price increases of between 20 per cent and 30 per cent seemed likely. Page 15

### Steel decision tonight

Steel union leaders meet tonight to confirm or suspend their decision to mount a national strike on January 2 against a background of increase in some steelmaking areas about the first all-out stoppage in the industry since 1926. In the past few days British Steel Corporation management have made frantic attempts to dissuade workers from striking. Page 2

### Education clash

The education committee of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities rejected resolutions criticizing the Government's education cutbacks and proposed an assisted places scheme that a conference of metropolitan education authorities had passed earlier in the day. Labour members on the committee walked out in protest at the rejection. Page 4

### Post rise doubts

To stop postage increases due to take effect in February, including a 20 per cent rise, the Government is being asked to modify its financial targets for the Post Office. Rejecting users' counter-proposals, the Post Office has asked the Government to decide whether to reaffirm the target figures. Page 3

BR needs £1,000m: Commuter services must have extra funds in the next 10 years, Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman, said. Page 3

Rain research: Popular beliefs about rape are challenged by a large-scale study of police files. Page 4

Fishing: To save British mackerel stocks from the depletion that affected herring, a tough licensing system will start next year. Page 4

Brussels: Britain vetoes EEC plan to share out E143m aid. Page 6

Sahara: Desert "ghost town" marks Polisario victory over dammed-up Moroccan unit. Page 8

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### Minister's position untenable

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State at the Treasury, was accused last night in the Commons of being in an untenable position in the Government in that he had been a tax adviser to the Rosemary Finance group, which the Inland Revenue is investigating for suspected tax fraud.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr, pointed out that Mr Rees was a minister in charge of the Inland Revenue and, as such, the investigators would not be able to do their work properly and impartially if they knew that they would be looking at the Minister's papers and that Mr Rees could be someone that they might wish to interview.

Mr Rooker suggested that if Mr Rees was considered to be of Government calibre, he should be moved immediately to another ministry.

The Commons Mr Rooker suggested, should make seriously the continued decline in the standards of public life. This case was probably the most detailed investigation of possible tax evasion undertaken by the Inland Revenue.

But for the Government front bench, Mr Norman St John Stevens, Leader of the House, said that there was no inconsistency between Mr Rees's career and his ministerial responsibility. The Revenue department did not consult Treasury ministers about individual cases.

Parliamentary report, page 5

Miss Sheila Fell, Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Edwards-Ker Woodcock reports on the Perth Stock Exchange. Equities drifted lower at internet levels ahead of Christmas holidays. The situation was much the same in gilt and the FT index closed 2.0 down at 421.3.

Financial Editor: The CST's report: year of consolidation for Northern Foods.

Business features: Kenneth Owen on the nuclear reactor debate, British firms with American insurance brokers are discussed by Richard Allen

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Sports, pages 5, 9  
On Revenue powers of Mr Peter Hordern, and Mr Graham Don; our energy, from Mr M. M. and Dr R. Hawley taking against Iran, from Lord

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### Thatcher hope of end to isolation of S Africa

From Michael Leepham  
New York, Dec 18

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said today that the Rhodesian settlement could provide a chance to end the isolation of South Africa. This first formal comment on the peace agreement came in a passage inserted at the last minute into a major speech at the Foreign Policy Association.

"There is now a real prospect that the conflicts on South Africa's borders, in Rhodesia and Namibia, will shortly be ended," she said. "This, combined with welcome initiatives in South African domestic policies, offers a chance to defuse a regional crisis which was, potentially at the utmost, going to make progress towards an ending of the isolation of South Africa in world affairs."

An audience of nearly 2,000 applauded her warmly when she spoke of the agreement, and again when she offered a generous speech to its architect, Lord Carrington, who was also at the luncheon. They clapped a third time when she thanked the United States Government and President Carter, for help in negotiations, especially their final stages.

The main burden of her speech was the presentation of an eight-point programme of action for the eighties." Noting that the last 10 years had been unhappy for the Western democracies, she said:

"Self-questioning is essential to the health of any society, but we have perhaps carried it too far; and carried to extremes it causes paralysis. The time has come when the West—above all Europe and the United States—must begin to substitute action for introspection."

The speech was the third in a trio in which the Prime Minister has sought to establish the philosophy behind her administration. The other two were made in Luxembourg and at the Guildhall in London.

Continued on page 6, col 8

Figures for job vacancies

show a good guide to the state of the labour markets. These show clearly that demand for labour is slackening. There was a sharp drop in the number of vacancies in November.

After taking account of seasonal factors, these fell by 14,600 to 218,500. There was a drop of 3,000 in November. Although many vacancies are not notified to employment offices, the trend moves in line with the overall number of jobs available.

It seems increasingly likely

that the Government will decide to cut unemployment benefits in real terms as part of its public spending plans for 1980-81.

Yesterdays figures will add weight to the argument of those who oppose such cuts on the grounds that many of the unemployed would like to work but cannot find jobs.

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Further evidence of the economic slowdown is given by the figures for redundancies notified to the Department of Employment. The final figures for

### Jobless figures point to continued rise throughout next year

By Caroline Atkinson

Unemployment is set to rise throughout next year. Figures published yesterday showed that the underlying level of unemployment has risen for three consecutive months, while the level of job vacancies has dropped in each of the last six months.

Adult unemployment in Britain stood at 1,233,800 earlier this month, a rise of 11,200 from the November level.

Officials expect redundancies to reach about 21,000 for November.

Cyclical indicators published

yesterday confirm the impression that Britain has begun to move into recession. The shorter leading indicators, which are supposed to anticipate cyclical movements about six months ahead, rose in November, but this was almost certainly a bump in the downward trend.

The industrial north of Britain has been worst hit by rising unemployment. The jobless now total 8 per cent of the working population in the north, after a rise of 1,600 in the underlying level of unemployment in that region.

Disparities between the rich and poor areas of Britain tend to widen when the economy slows down. Unemployment in the south east still only rises 3.4 per cent of the work force.

The Government's changes in the special employment measures designed to reduce unemployment have accelerated slightly the rise in unemployment. Fewer people are now affected by the job measures as some schemes are being phased out.

An estimated 378,000 people were affected by job schemes at the end of November, 8,000 fewer than at the end of September.

The effect on the total of registered unemployment is somewhat less at about 229,000, which is 7,000 fewer than at month earlier.

The overall number of people registered as out of work in Britain now stands at 1,292,040. This includes 35,702 school leavers. The number of our work school leavers dropped last month.

Figures for the United Kingdom as a whole, including Northern Ireland, show a similar picture. The figures for redundancies notified to the Department of Employment. The final figures for

November are not yet available.

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Exploiting the second class wives, page 10



Professor Küng: No longer to be considered a Catholic theologian.

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Dec 18

The Vatican's new, sharpened axe of orthodoxy fell yesterday on Roman Catholicism's most famous theologian with a statement depriving Professor Hans Küng, the Swiss-born priest, of his right to teach or to call himself a Catholic theologian at all.

Professor Küng has taught theology for many years at Tübingen. His books have repeatedly broken through the frontier between the academic world and the popular reading public.

He is accused in the statement published with the Pope's approval of contempt for the teaching authority of the Church "undoubtedly with serious harm to some essential points of Catholic faith".

The declaration was issued by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith,

## HOME NEWS

## Steel union leaders to decide on national strike against background of workers' unease

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Steel union leaders meet in London tonight to confirm or suspend their decision to mount a national strike from January 2. The critical meeting takes place against a background of unease in some steelmaking areas about the first all-out stoppage in the industry since 1926.

The executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation sent out its strike instruction 12 days ago to 90,000 members employed by the British Steel Corporation, and the last few days have seen almost frantic attempts by management to dissuade workers from striking. ISTC representatives in South Wales yesterday rejected a move to set up a new "Triple Alliance" between steelworkers, miners and transport workers, arguing that the industrial action against BSC's shutdown programme should be nationwide rather than confined to Wales. And there is a reaction against the strike call at the Scunthorpe steel complex in Lincolnshire, although a local official said that, despite some reluctance, men at the plants there would be "pretty solidly behind the executive."

The falling-off of militancy in the union could also be detected in a decision by Corby steelworkers to begin negotiations on redundancy pay and the recommendation from yesterday's 100-strong ISTC conference to renew both the threatened Port Talbot and Llanwern works, but on a reduced scale. These attitudes fit in with BSC's plan to axe 52,000 jobs and reduce steelmaking capacity.

Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the British Steel Corporation,

took the propaganda initiative again with a speech to an Industrial Society conference in Nottingham. Recalling that BSC had offered 2 per cent across the board and up to 10 per cent more as a lump sum bonus payable quarterly for improved results and demanding, he said: "We are talking money, and the only questions are how, where and for what."

Management wanted the clock to start ticking on January 1, so that bonuses could be paid on March 31 and every three months thereafter. The same message was repeated on Teesside by Mr Derek Saul, divisional managing director. He urged workers to think again about strike action and insisted that the bonus for extra output, reduced costs, and lower manning was worth it. "If the strike went ahead Europe's biggest blast furnace at Redcar could be out of operation for weeks, possibly months," at huge cost in lost production.

Anxiety about the industry's future is not confined to BSC management. Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said: "We feel we are facing what could be the most damaging dispute our nation has ever seen. We can well understand both the provocative proposals by BSC and the emotiveness of our ISTC colleagues in calling for strike action".

Arguing that the Government should intervene to prevent the strike over BSC's 2 per cent pay offer, he added: "The engineering shop floor recognises that people in the steel industry are in their present position through no fault of their own, and should inject capital into the industry to pay good wages.

Another ISTC member said that agreement from the unions on such use of contract labour was a key part of the ways BSC could achieve desperately needed improvements. In results at works level which were needed if the company was to survive against competition.

He was withdrawn from the area pending investigations.

Radioactive material escaped after a fire in the decommissioning plant at Windscale on July 16. Workers in the plant and nearby buildings were moved as contaminated with radioactive material.

One worker inhaled caesium, equal to a dose of about six per cent of the permissible annual level. The total release left the atmosphere was about a quarter of the normal annual discharge of caesium from Windscale.

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate says it is satisfied that there is no danger of any radiation leak.

The defects are minor; not cracks but bubbles in the pipe-work welds. Examinations are being made to be sure there is no further deterioration.

Neither received a significant dose and both are now back at work.

Another Windscale worker was withdrawn from the active area after a finger wound last August, which became slightly contaminated with radioactive material.

Defects have appeared in some gas-cooled reactors at Calder Hall, next to Windscale, and Chapelcross, at Ayr, Scotland.

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## ME NEWS

## Government is asked to avert the p letter by modifying its financial targets for Post Office

**Patricia Tisdall**  
Government Correspondent

Government is being

revised its financial targets for the Post Office in order

to meet price increases next year.

Post Office yesterday

put forward by the

Office Users' National

(POUNC).

reply to the POUNC

is it impossible

to meet its agreed cash

and financial targets.

Government must decide

to reaffirm the need

Post Office to meet its

targets.

report submitted to the

Office Users said the

in a "soft option".

The Morgan, the

customers have some evidence

in performance

negotiating for wage settle-

Morgan said: "We

will be necessary for

tent to accept revised

targets, but hope it

is this is the kind

the Post Office

should be asked to meet. In

dealing with a monopoly industry, customers too have rights."

The proposed increases, the second in six months, include

an additional 2p on first and

second class letter rates, with

ups to 22 per cent for

parcels and 23 per cent for

overseas markets."

Coupled with the tariff changes of last August, they represent increases of about 40 per cent in a single financial year for many years.

POUNC proposed increases

in two stages; the second to be

deferred until after next year's

wage settlement, and perceptible productivity improvements.

The report, made after consulta-

tion with some 400 organiza-

tions, recommended that the initial increases should be

restricted to 1p up in first

and second class letter rates.

The average weighted increase

in overseas charges should not

exceed 10 per cent.

The Mail Users Association

(MUA), representing business

customers whose annual spend-

ing represents about 10 per

cent of its total, supports the

POUNC drive to reduce over-

seas postal costs.

Mr Julian Blackwell, chair-

man of the MUA Exporters'

Group, said yesterday that this

should give much needed help

to exporters who expect to

send goods worth some £530m

abroad by post next year and

who are "struggling very hard

indeed to retain markets and

keep up overseas sales."

He said that for the last four

years the Post Office had made

an average 5.9 per cent profit

on overseas mail, which was

three times the required target.

In its reply to POUNC, the

Post Office said the cash limit

set in advance for the year

1979-80 had assumed pay settle-

ments of 5 per cent, but in

October it had conducted the

final stages of a pay efficiency

agreement with the Union of

Post Office Workers, which

another added 16 per cent to

the wage bill.

The postal service is

heavily labour-intensive, wages

accounting for more than three-

quarters of total costs, and the

Post Office considers that if

it has no alternative but to pass

the increases on to increased costs.

Productivity, measured in

terms of items handled per

member of staff, had fallen

over the last decade.

The number of staff em-

ployed is now about the same

as it was in 1970, whereas the

volume of traffic has fallen by

about 4 per cent.

Mr John Mathew, QC, for

Ladbrooke, told the court it was

plainly clear from the Crown

Court's judgment that it had

been an eyes" to the restruc-

turing.

Lord Justice Shaw, presiding

in the Queen's Bench Divisional

Court, said an application could

be made early in the new year

for a expedited full hearing

of the appeal.

Ladbrooke given leave

to appeal on licences

for the expanding labour force.

Although the drag lines are

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Having now bowed to the

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an intelligent, gentle-looking

Scotsman who is senior controller of the Electrical, Electronic,

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"But if our lads find themselves made redundant on the middle of the strike, they could not claim continuous employment, and our could lose a lot of money. Frankly, the timing of this strike has put us in an impossible position."

As for alternative employ-

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## HOME NEWS

## Metropolitan authorities in clash over conference criticisms of government education policy

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

A dispute broke out at a meeting of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee yesterday when it rejected resolutions criticizing the Government which had been passed earlier in the day by a full conference of metropolitan education authorities.

The annual meeting in King's Cross upon Thames of the 57 metropolitan education authorities in England passed resolutions attacking Government cuts in education spending and opposing the proposed assisted places scheme. Labour has a majority of one among the authorities.

Less than two hours later, the resolutions were rejected by a closed meeting of the AMA education committee, which is Conservative-controlled and which has representatives from only 34 of the 57 authorities. The 15 Labour members walked out.

Mrs Nicole Harrison, chairman of Haringey's education committee and leader of the Labour group on the AMA education committee, said afterwards: "It is ridiculous that you get a democratic decision by a conference representing every metropolitan education authority in the country and then you go into a small caucus and they reverse it."

But after the Labour walk-out, the AMA education committee agreed to recommend that every metropolitan edu-

cation authority should be represented.

At the morning meeting, Conservative and Labour authorities joined to pass by 25 votes to 14 a resolution recording the meeting's "grave concern" (at) the severity of the spending cuts in education proposed by the Government, which inevitably will lead to a lowering of standards and of morale in the service".

The meeting urged the Government to "reverse its divisive and disastrous policies" and to maintain at least the present levels of expenditure on all forms of state education.

The meeting passed by 23 votes to 21 a motion noting "the alarm" over the proposal to spend £50m on places at independent schools while cutting £30m from the normal education budget. It also recorded its "complete opposition" to the assisted places scheme.

Sir Ashley Bramall, Labour leader of the Inner London Education Authority, said the financial aspect of the assisted places scheme was a serious irritant.

But the real menace was that the scheme was intended to transfer the business of getting university places from the public to the private sector.

It would drive education back to the situation before the Second World War when state schools were not expected to have academic highfliers, he said.

Mr Neil Scrimshaw, Conservative chairman of Birmingham education committee, argued

that only 1 or 2 per cent of children would be involved in the scheme; 98 per cent of the education service would remain as it was at the moment. Only £6m would be spent in the first year out of an education budget of £6,000m. The scheme had to be kept in perspective, he said.

Mr Peter Newsam, ILEA chief education officer, argued that although the scheme would only concern 2 per cent of children, it would be 2 per cent of the brightest 10 per cent, and would therefore take a fifth of the highfliers out of state schools. That could be a catastrophe for six forms, he said.

Councillor J. W. Withnall, Labour, of Walsall, said that the scheme would not benefit the working-class children whom it was intended to help, as their parents would not know how to use the scheme.

Assisted places would go usually to children whose parents were considering independent schools anyway.

Mr Peter Horton, Labour chairman of Sheffield education committee, said that Sheffield would try to hinder the scheme, even if it became law, in the same way as the Tory authorities had hindered the introduction of comprehensive schools.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Conservative chairman of the AMA education committee, said that she shared the meeting's concern about the possible effect of the cuts. But she also believed they could help by focusing attention on "more basic solutions to problems".

## IBA's decision on television regions has shocked prospective broadcasters

By David Hewson  
Industrial Staff

The Independent Broadcasters' Authority has decided that there will be no major changes in the regions covered by the commercial television companies which win the fight for licences to broadcast from January 1982.

The ruling has astounded both existing companies and the various consortia formed to challenge them during hearings for the franchises next year.

It will immediately rule out the chances of success of Lancashire, the consortium which includes Mr Brian Redhead and the Duke of Westminster, and the East Midlands Forum, a group involving five county councils in the Midlands advised by Mr Phillip Whitehead, MP for Derby (North) and a former BBC producer and editor.

Mr Whitehead said last night: "There will be a great deal of questioning of the IBA's interpretation of its role and its apparent subservience to the existing companies in this. When one thinks the fourth channel is going to be put in the hands of this present organization, I am in despair."

Both groups' applications for franchises were to be based upon changing the boundaries of the companies currently serving their areas. Such changes occurred when the franchises were last offered in 1967, and consortia planning to compete in the present round, which affects all 15 companies operating in the country, believed regional changes would be considered again.

The chairman of the IBA, Lady Plowden, has, however, written to the Lancaster group saying: "The national plan for television coverage of the United Kingdom does not permit the authority to carve out fresh regions in areas already covered."

An IBA spokesman last night confirmed the point, saying that the authority could not agree to changes such as those suggested by Lancashire be-

cause they would involve the construction of new transmitter equipment.

The chief executive of the Lancashire group, Mr Anthony Surcliffe, said that lawyers had written to the IBA contesting Lady Plowden's claim that new regions could not be created.

It is also expected that questions will be tabled in the House of Commons asking Lord Belstead, the Home Office minister responsible for broadcasting, to define the IBA's powers.

The ruling has been greeted with particular bitterness among members of competing consortia because it has been made before the IBA has advertised for applications for the franchises.

The advertisements were due to appear this month, but are now likely to be delayed until January. Contracts are due to be awarded next winter.

The IBA spokesman said: "We feel we are working in the meaning of the Broadcasting Act."

## Adult education council to last until 1983

By Our Education Correspondent

The Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education, whose chairman is Dr Richard Hoggart, is to be allowed to continue for a further three years after its present three-year office expires in October 1980.

In a letter to Dr Hoggart, Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that he had been impressed by the energy and enthusiasm with which the council had tackled a daunting task.

He recognized that the council had only just begun to make an impact on its two main tasks: the review of current practice and of how most effectively to use resources and the identification of policies and priorities so as to produce a coherent pattern of provision for present and future needs.

He felt, however, that advisory bodies should not, as a general rule, be set up for indefinite periods. He expected tests over the total period of six years, and did not foresee a need for it to continue after October 1983.

The council has an annual budget of £22,000.

## Storms put Radio Four transmitter out of action

Radio Four will stay off the air for many listeners in England and Wales until at least tomorrow as engineers try to repair a storm-damaged transmitter.

The 700 foot high aerial at Droitwich, near Birmingham, was damaged in Monday's 100mph gales. The BBC said aerials were designed to withstand high winds but the prolonged bad weather had been much more than it.

The stress on the aerial over that period was enormous—the worst weather for decades", they said.

Radio Four can still be heard on VHF and in the South-West, London, Newcastle, Carlisle and Northern Ireland areas served by local medium wave stations.

Snow blocked the 1,700ft Steeple Pass on the A56 road between Penrith and Scotch Corner in Cumbria, yesterday, stranding a line of lorries a mile long.

High winds caused drifts and police stopped all heavy traffic while snowploughs cleared the roads for drivers to return to the motorway.

It was later described as passable with care. More snow is predicted in the next 24 hours.

Traffic was back to normal on the M6 in Cumbria after high winds on Monday had left

almost 400 lorries stranded at the motorway service area at Southwaite.

A helicopter began airlifting more than 100 tons of feed to 60 remote sheep farms high in the Lake District fells.

In Northamptonshire, a motorcycleist, Mr Philip Richard Emerson, aged 20, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, was blown off his machine and found with head injuries at the top of a hill near Middleton Cheney. He died later.

Shipping and coastguards along the south coast are searching for a missing coaster, the St Ann of Alderney, 300 tons which was last heard of at 1 am on Monday, passing the Hook of Holland bound for Exmouth, Devon.

The 36 hours severe storms have kept the channel.

More than 20 large ships sheltered off Torbay.

In the English Channel the search has been called off for two French trawlers lost in the violent storms.

Bristol Channel coastguards are watching for a dozen 45-gallon drums of highly inflammable poisonous chemical which were lost overboard from a Kuwaiti vessel off St Ann's Head, South Wales. The blue drums are labelled Basrah.

## Provincial journalists vote 3-1 against pay offer of 14½%

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

Negotiators for the National Union of Journalists will meet the Newspaper Society this morning following the rejection by a three-to-one majority of the union's provincial members of an offer which would add, according to Nuj estimates, 14½ per cent in the wage bill in regional newspapers.

The society, which has so far emphasized that its offer is a final one, has a policy unlike that of many industrial employers of not backdating annual pay awards if negotiations run beyond the normal settlement date of January 1. If the employers fail to improve their offer today, the union will have to decide its next step in some haste.

There is a settlement the union is expected to convene a meeting of chapel (office branch) representatives next week which could ask meetings of members in the following few days to consider sanctions in support of the union's 30 per cent pay claim.

The Nuj maintain, however, that recent Fleet Street deals have widened rather than narrowed the gap. Admitting that the calculation is rough,

the union claims that the overall average in the provinces is about £5,000 a year compared with their estimate of £10,000 in Fleet Street.

Nuj discontent has been further fuelled by comparison with some settlements reached with other workers in provincial newspapers.

The union lost no time in exploiting the publication in *The Journalist* a memorandum circulated within the management of Thomson Regional Newspapers, one of the four big groups in the field which together account for perhaps a third of the 9,000 journalists in provincial newspapers.

It indicated that between September 1978 and June 1979, journalists' earnings had risen by £17 per week to £115 for process workers in the Society of Lithographic Artists Designers and Engravers, and by £5 to £177 for members of the National Graphical Association.

The senior average rate for journalists is £106 per week, almost exactly equivalent to that of freelance workers with provincial reporters often paid in their daily routine work.

The Nuj do not quarrel with that figure but maintain it gives a distorted impression unless set against that of juniors

trainees or those prevented from leaving their papers because they are indentured.

The estimated average earnings for the industry's 19,353 juniors in 1979 is £50.13 below the average manual wage. The Nuj have repeatedly argued that the juniors create a pool of cheap labour for smaller weekly newspapers whose reporting staffs, the union claims, sometimes entirely consist of trainees.

Juniors, the union argues, form the most militant section of the union, partly because they are bitter at doing the work of qualified journalists at lower rates, and partly because in some smaller offices they are most likely to be chaperone fathers (shop stewards) because their qualified colleagues move away so fast.

Equally, the Nuj has argued that a lack of an incremental scale forces qualified journalists who have more to offer to provincial newspapers into what it claims are better paid jobs not only in Fleet Street but in radio, television, public relations and in fact, under the current Nuj offer the existing two-year five-year increments to between £450 a week and £500 (depending on size of newspaper) and between 19 and 20 per cent for juniors.

The senior average rate for journalists is £106 per week, almost exactly equivalent to that of freelance workers with provincial reporters often paid in their daily routine work.

The Nuj, however, would like further long service increments after eight and 10 years.

The Nuj does not deny having made considerable progress in some provincial groups because of the house level negotiations on which the NS gave a laid back in its reply to the union's claim this year.

The NS argued in its reply that because of house negotiations, member companies already offer proven job security of a high order.

A salary progression for those who merit it... must inevitably be established at house level."

The NS also took a more sanguine view of turnover in the industry. "Our members believe it would be wasted effort and expense to try to retain people who are intent on moving out of the provinces for career, as much as for financial reasons and we believe that they form the majority of seniors who leave our industry for journalistic work elsewhere."

The union by contrast argues that the quality of local newspapers and ability to investigate local affairs is severely impaired by rapid turnover.

The NS says that its offer will add to basic rates, though not earnings, an overall average of 18 per cent for seniors and 20 per cent for juniors.

## SDLP fury at 'No unity' remark by Mr Atkins

From Christopher Thomas  
Belfast

The Government's delicate agreement with Northern Ireland politicians for a constitutional conference beginning on January 7 survived a day of doubt and confusion yesterday which might easily have seen its downfall.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party said it was furious with Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for saying Irish unity would be ruled out after the proposed conference. Mr John Hume, party leader, promptly issued a public challenge to Mr Atkins to explain himself.

Mr Atkins remained silent, but the Northern Ireland Office said he stood by a six-point agreement with the SDLP which four days ago persuaded the party to take part in the conference. Despite strong words of condemnation by party leaders of what they saw as backtracking by Mr Atkins, the conference was still on last night.

Mr Hume, who was in Dublin for talks with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, said: "I call on Mr Atkins publicly to confirm the six points of agreement. If there is any change in this position, either before or during the conference, then we can draw our own conclusions as to the seriousness of the initiative and the reasons that lay behind it."

Stronger words came from Mr Seamus Mallon, the deputy leader, who accused Mr Atkins of duplicity which has already eroded any degree of trust that existed between him and the Northern Ireland parties.

By a combination of dishonesty and incompetence Mr Atkins had made it almost impossible for political progress to take place under his chairmanship.

The comment that upset the SDLP was contained in a letter from Mr Atkins to the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, who wanted assurances that there would be no talk of old-style power-sharing or Irish unity.

Mr Atkins said the conference would remain unaligned. Relations with the Republic of Ireland on matters over which any devolved Stormont assembly would have responsibility would be a legitimate subject for the conference to discuss, he added.

The 40-word agreement with the SDLP is an obvious refinement of the critical Paragraph Four of the working paper, which said the conference would not be concerned with the constitutional status of the province and would not be asked to discuss issues such as Irish unity, confederation or independence.

compared with £11.9m for last season.

Phillips, the third largest auction group, reports its figures by calendar year, and last year was drawing closer for some time.

The autumn season: Sotheby's turnover in Bond Street was £1m down on last year at £24.9m; in New York it was £15.6m up at £42m.

Such figures are complicated by the vagaries of exchange rates. The New York turnover is 72 per cent up on 1978 if measured in dollars and 53 per cent up if measured in sterling. However, turnover in Bond Street is down whichever way you look at it. Elsewhere in Britain there has been a modest advance.

Sotheby's is now the biggest art auction worldwide by a large margin with a turnover of £94.3m compared with Christie's, the nearest competitor, with a turnover of £53.3m.

Christie's has had a better autumn in London than Sotheby's with turnover up by 35 per cent to £21.4m. But in New York, where Christie's auction rooms are only just entering their third year of business, turnover is up to £16m



Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, inspecting Christmas turkeys during an early morning visit to Smithfield Market, London, yesterday.

## Police files study dispels fallacies of rape

By David Nicholson-Lord

Several commonly held beliefs about rape have been challenged in what is said to be the first large-scale survey to be conducted in Britain of rape cases based on police file

It was carried out by Richard Wright, a research student at the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge. His findings were presented yesterday to a symposium on rape at a British Psychological Society conference in London.

Other papers included a results of research into the personalities of violent rapists and into the law's attitude to rape.

Mr Wright began with that of the popular myths about listed in the first report of the Rape Crisis Centre in London. Those were that women enjoy rape, that rape is impossible for a woman to resist, and that it's just sexual intercourse when you do not want it.

The study was based on 20 cases over a five-year period in the East Midlands and East Anglia.

In 80 per cent of cases, the Wright found, the victim was pushed, slapped or roughly handled. In half, she was threatened with physical harm, usually death. Since most of the victims still resisted the attacker, it seemed illogical, suppose they enjoyed the counter.



## WEST EUROPE

## Slimming doctor is jailed for two years and ordered to pay £55,000 damages after girl's death

From Ian Murray

Paris, Dec 18  
The court in Clermont-Ferrand yesterday listened in horror to the story of the unnecessary death of a young university student, Mlle Frédérique Brun.

After hearing details of the treatment she had been receiving for slimming, the court sentenced her specialist to two years' imprisonment with a fine of 30,000 francs (£3,333)—the maximum penalty possible under the law—and ordered him to pay 500,000 francs damages to her family.

The trial was described as a test case of "the Dr Jekylls as all the breeds who practice such a trade", by M. Jean-Marie Rousseau, the public prosecutor. He demanded the maximum penalty for the specialist, Dr Pierre-Marie Painvin.

Dr Painvin intends to appeal against his sentence for manslaughter. He was not present during the hearing, having sent a letter saying he was "convalescing", but the court ruled that this was merely an attempt at wasting time. Because of this, under French law, defence lawyers were not allowed to plead. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

The dead girl's mother, Mme Martine Brun, told the court that she had been recommended by a friend to see Dr Painvin in 1975 when she wanted to lose weight. She had, however, given up the treatment he prescribed for her rather quickly and had soon gone back to the 151 stone she weighed beforehand.

The following year she sent her daughter, a student of English in Montluçon, to see Dr Painvin in his Paris surgery. Mlle Brun was only 5ft 1in and weighed nearly 11 stone and she was determined to try to avoid becoming as stout as her mother. She accordingly followed the doctor's orders very carefully, with the result that she died.

The girl was apparently given the usual form of consultation by the doctor. First she was given an electrocardiogram, then a 15-minute interview with the doctor. He gave her a prescription which had to be taken to a special chemist at Seine-Saint-Denis, where she was issued with capsules.

Between October, 1976, and the beginning of February, 1977, she lost just over two stones but still had not reached the target figure set by the doctor. He accordingly gave her a new prescription for stronger tablets. On February 10 she became so ill that her parents called the family doctor. Taken to hospital she failed to respond to any treatment and died.

The post mortem examination showed that she had been taking massive doses of thyroxine—a thyroid gland extract—mixed with strong amphetamines and diuretics in the capsules. The effect was to upset her thyroid gland, provoking a mechanical loss of weight, but ultimately causing heart failure.

Mme Brun told the court how she had watched her daughter becoming more and more ill, with dark purple patches spreading across her

face. She became extremely irritable and bad tempered.

According to the prosecutor this case was the best documented one, but there had been many others where patients following Dr Painvin's treatment had become extremely ill. In one case a woman had lost 9lb overnight with near fatal consequences.

Nevertheless, he said, the doctor had made a real fortune since leaving general practice in order to specialize in 1971. Operating from his surgery in Boulevard Flandrin, with its telephone machine, seven outside telephone lines and a team of three doctors, he was never short of clients prepared to pay him up to 350 francs for a 15-minute interview.

M Rousseau calculated that the doctor had made an average of 10,000 francs a day and probably something like 200 francs since 1971. Even so he appears to have paid very little tax and has already been convicted of fiscal fraud and swindling the social security.

The Ordre des Médecins, which is the controlling body for French doctors, suspended Dr Painvin from practising for three years from the beginning of this month, after the death of another of his patients, an overweight lorry driver.

The prosecutor criticized the Order for being so slow to discipline Dr Painvin. Nevertheless, the Order sought and was granted one franc nominal damages against the doctor for "discrediting medical practice".

"We thought the Grapo file was closed," said a police official. "but now we have to start all over again."

Authorities investigating the fatal shooting of two youths in a riot here last Thursday have found evidence suggesting some shots might have been fired from buildings near by.

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her daughter, a student of English in Montluçon, to see Dr Painvin in his Paris surgery. Mlle Brun was only 5ft 1in and weighed nearly 11 stone and she was determined to try to avoid becoming as stout as her mother. She accordingly followed the doctor's orders very carefully, with the result that she died.

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## OVERSEAS

## Young guru in earthly fight over Malibu pad for birthday helicopter

From Ivor Davis

Los Angeles, Dec 18

In the southern California community of Malibu Beach there is another religious leader, besides the Ayatollah Khomeini who is winning no popularity contests.

The guru, Maharaj Ji, aged 22, the Indian-born leader of the Divine Light Mission whose followers are said to number several million throughout the world, is locked in earthly battle with residents of his waterfront community which includes a goodly collection of show business luminaries, including Barbra Streisand, Cary Grant, and singers Bob Dylan and Linda Ronstadt, girlfriend of Mr Jerry Brown, California's Governor.

It all began when devoted followers of the "Perfect Master", as he is called, gave him a spanking new jet helicopter for his birthday. That created a problem. There was nowhere for the leader of the religious cult to land and take off at his \$2m (£900,000) hilltop estate.

In May the guru's lawyers were denied permission to build a helipad near the pool and tennis court by the Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission. The guru is appealing against that decision and his followers are expected to show up at a public hearing before the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors on Thursday.

The guru has taken out full

page advertisements in local newspapers to try to placate residents' groups which vigorously oppose the helipad, saying it not only creates noise but is an unnecessary hazard.

Engineers hired by the guru have run extensive tests to prove that their modern executive helicopter is a particularly noiseless one and that wherever helipads are built, property values around have gone up. They also say that the guru only plans to use his helicopter six times a year.

Residents still are not impressed and the battle so far has been fought in the columns of the Malibu *Surfside News*.

Such a helipad could generate as much noise as a factory right here in peaceful Malibu", Mr John May, a resident declared.

Mr Kent Mulvihill, another neighbour, said: "The most compelling argument against this private indulgence is the alarming precedent it would set. If this one gets through the need for a private helipad, it could just a matter of time before Malibu becomes hell-hopper heaven."

The guru's devotees, however, are undaunted. Over the past weekend dozen of young followers went from door to door trying to persuade residents to see if the guru's way.

## Desert ghost town marks Polisario victory over demoralized Moroccan unit

From Pierre Taillifer

of Agence France-Presse

Lebourate, Morocco, Dec 18

This southern outpost has become a ghost town with charred wrecks of tanks and trucks.

Cross wheel tirelessly over-head. Desert sand blows into the smoke-blackened buildings four months after Lebourate was captured by the Algerian-backed Polisario of Western Sahara nationalists. Although the town is inside Morocco, my Polisario guides took no special precautions.

Lebourate is about 60 miles from Algeria and about 30 miles north of the Western Sahara, which Morocco and the Polisario have been fighting over since Spain withdrew.

About 2,000 Moroccan soldiers and civilians had been here guarding the road to the south, my guides said. Polisario fighters took it on August 25, and the Moroccans have never tried to retake it. I was told.

At the north end of the valley, burnt tanks were faced north with their turrets aiming to the rear, in position to retreat while trying to delay the advance of the Saharan Land-Rovers. Shell cases were scattered round the tanks.

"As soon as a tank halted, it was lost," my guides confirmed. "Then it was easy to hit them with mortars." We set up an ambush here that trapped those fleeing and also stopped a relief column sent from Zaït (about 52 miles to the north). The bastion is flanked by

the commander, Major Muhammad Azzelai, reported on August 12 that because of the garrison's heavy losses, "the morale of soldiers, the defective weapons, the immobility of the few remaining tanks and the traumatised and demoralized soldiers, this unit is no longer operational and a catastrophe with grave consequences is likely at the next slightest blow unless the command takes into consideration the situation of the unit."

That was 12 days before the fall of Lebourate.

## Earthquake kills 12 on island of Bali

Jakarta, Dec 18.—At least 12 people were killed and 82 seriously injured in a strong, two-minute earthquake on the island of Bali today, the provincial Government said.

Hundreds of people fled from their homes. Some beat wooden drums to alert neighbours who might have slept through the shock. It was the third earthquake in these islands this year.

Destruction on Bali, which included a hundred homes, schools and public buildings, appeared to be centred on the north-eastern part of the island while the tourist resort on its southern and western coasts escaped damage. There were no reports of foreign visitors among the injured.—Reuter.

## Six-lane highway may link Canton with Hongkong

From Richard Hughes

Hongkong, Dec 18

Chinese authorities, directing the "modernization" drive, want to build a six-lane highway from Canton to the Hongkong border and a rail link across the border to a Peking-owned container terminal on the Kwai-chow side of Hongkong harbour.

The proposals have been made by visiting representatives of the Canton Planning Commission in discussions with Hongkong Government officials and members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

The present road connexion across the border to Canton, which carries an expanding volume of container lorries and other transport, was described as "inadequate" by Mr Mai Yang, vice-chairman of the Canton Commission.

According to our planning to build a modern highway all the way from Canton. We do not know the construction cost yet. But we will welcome foreign investment, both from Hongkong and overseas, for the project."

## SPORT

## Cricket

## Border averts Australian collapse

From John Woodcock

Cricket Correspondent

Perth, Dec 18

After the hottest night ever recorded in Perth in December (the temperature never fell below 80°), the fourth day's play in the first Test match took place under a thick cover of cloud. Bating was not easy, especially this morning, and England, having allowed Australia to recover from a bad morning, were glad enough to have to bat for only 25 minutes in evening. The heat had proved the last half hour, but when England had made 19 for one towards the 354 they need to win.

England's chances of victory can be dismissed, unless tomorrow is as blue and beautiful as today was grey and oppressive; and even then two, perhaps three, of the side would have to play the last over to win. The heat is more realistic to think in terms of a draw, and hopes even of that have started already to centre on Boycott. Randal was log-below in the second over of England's innings, plucking an eagle out of the sky. In the space of 10 hours, though not so far in the one-day games, the idea of opening with Randal has failed. I had rather hoped to see Brearley come in this evening instead of Randal.

With another wonderfully wonderful effort Randal took his haul of wickets for the match to 11 and made it seem quite likely at one time that England would be left with no more than 26 to win. Inspired by Border's long spell, Australia from 168 for two at the start to 228 for seven at lunch. But Border and Lillee (using his wooden bat) made 71 together, Border reaching his first hundred against Australia and avoiding a humiliating and spectacular collapse.

The guru's devotees, however, are undaunted. Over the past weekend dozen of young followers went from door to door trying to persuade residents to see if the guru's way.

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In today's steamy weather Randal's feat of bowling for the first two hours 40 minutes of play surpassed even his first innings heroics. He had a strain in the arm, not elbow, but Randal's heart lies in the field here, adjusting his bowling to the conditions, as well as to his own fitness, and twice conjuring up visions of victory. Not only does he have an eagle about his belt between the overs he is usually ready with a word of encouragement to anyone in need of it.

The important wicket of Chappell fell Underwood of the fourth ball of the day. Having come to the wicket in his cap, he changed his mind and went to square cut instead. The ball turned, Chappell missed, and from wide out Taylor stumped him. The next four wickets all fell to Border. At 184 Hughes, on the first four wickets, had a period of 15 to 19. Toohey, hooking, was caught at the wicket down the leg side; at 204 Marsh, in the first over of the new ball, flicked a low catch to Gower, standing at square leg some 30 yards out; and at 226 Lee, who had been in the ball for nearly 100 overs, had a catch kept low and cut back at him. Had this gone on England would have been barking by 2.30.

But although Underwood, when he was bowling, kept an eye on Randal, Randal lacked persistence and probably caught by Dilley, whenupon Border returned to the crease and bowled him out in his second over.

At the edge of the town, the Saharans buried several dozen

Moroccan soldiers. Each grave

is marked in Muslim fashion by one stone at the head and another at the feet. A few bodies that had been overlooked were desecrated like mummies by the sun.

The Polisario party showed me pages from the Moroccan

commander's reports. He stated that the stronghold he was defending was attacked on July 6 and again on August 10 by about 100 jeeps carrying twin-tube rocket launchers, cannon and mortars.

Border had had enough (his 54 overs for the day, when he first came off, were 21–8–33–33).

The extent to which England rely on him became all too clear. Little was being obstructive by then.

Until this innings Border had been the best bowler in the team. When he has

reached 1,000 runs in Test

cricket in a quicker time (354 days on 13 Tests) than any other Australian, though he has not got the record for the frequency of modern Test matches.

Border and Lillee were looking

like bunting through the afternoon, 10 minutes before

Border's holding the ball above

the left eye. He went off for stretching, having batted for then for six hours. Border is one of only two batsmen not to have won a medal in his first 10 Test matches.

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## How second wives turn into second class citizens

When is a wife not a wife? When she's an ex-wife? Wrong: when she's a second wife. Thousands of women discover that tying the knot with a divorced husband turns them into second class citizens. A second wife is not treated as a real wife unless her predecessor dies or remarries. At best her existence is ignored by the courts. At worst, she may find her income exploited so that her husband can featherbed an ex-wife who will not work when she is perfectly able to, or the state save itself the cost of keeping one who cannot. At the lower end of the income scale she may find that our system of social security positively discriminates against her and her family.

When a maintenance order is made, the law does not recognize the conduct of either party in a divorce and remains morally neutral. Even so, a second wife who is in no way involved in the breakdown of the marriage can find herself in a disadvantaged position.

The contradictory position of second wives is only one reason why our divorce laws are badly in need of change. There is unrest in other quarters too. Last week *Torn Lives*, produced by the Order of Christian Unity, catalogued the predictably dismal effects of divorce and its aftermath on children.

After intensive lobbying by the Campaign for Justice in Divorce, an all-party committee of MPs is to press the Lord Chancellor for an inquiry into the present system. Its chairman is Mr Leo Abse, who, it may be remembered, played a prominent part in shaping the 1969 Divorce Reform Act, the basis of our present system.

Women's parent family organizations have been campaigning for years to get the recommendations of the Finch Report put into practice.

The new society would also like some changes. Everyone has their own idea about what is needed. What is common to all is the feeling that the present system makes a mockery of the hopes expressed by one sponsor of the 1969 Act that "to bury the dead shell of a marriage that has broken down, without bitterness between the parties". The way the law operates, it does the very reverse.

It will come as no surprise to those who have experienced its workings that a staggering 40 per cent of second marriages now end in divorce. This statistic causes less alarm with the family lobby than does the lower failure rate for all divorces. In fact it pinpoints the real disaster of the present laws.

The main reason for this high mortality rate must be that many second marriages suffer fatal out from the first. Far from buttressing the institution of marriage as was intended, the 1969 Act appears to have undermined it.

Financially a second marriage exists as a kind of legitimate bigamy. The overriding objective was that both parties should be placed, as far as possible, in the same position that they would have been if the marriage had not broken down. This is clearly impossible and more than one judge has, in polite legal language, described the clause as rubbish. In practice what it often boils down to is a divorced man taking on an everlasting commitment to keep a former spouse—even after his own death. The effects of this on any second wife—and they can be crippling—

Those who claim that the present laws exist to protect families with children are putting up a smoke screen. In reality, children often

run a poor second to ex-wives. A child is not supported since it is grown up. An ex-wife can be kept forever. Some husbands retain custody of the children of the marriage, pay their ex-wives maintenance. Ex-wives who resent their former husbands are rarely ordered to pay anything. Everyone pays lip-service to the importance of the family. Yet senior judges can seriously debate what is the precise level of subsistence for a divorced man, his second wife and children when deciding how much he should pay an ex-wife, who, at this rung on the income ladder may be better off on social security anyway.

Moreover the family that ends up with a subsistence income after paying an order for maintenance will find that this burden is completely ignored when it applies for Family Income Supplement, or rent and rate rebates. Somewhere between the demands of the courts and the regulations of the Department of Health and Social Security lies a poverty trap into which a lower income group second wife and her family can all too easily fall.

Perhaps the most telling comment on the present system came from one second wife who claimed her husband was paying his ex-wife so much maintenance that he had officially deserted her so that she and her children could be better off on social security. As Mr Micawber might put it if he were alive and divorced today—one wife, one income may equal unhappiness but two wives, one income can mean misery.

Maggie Drummond

## The feminist with a yearning for scholarship

"A wholly disproportionate amount of attention is paid to undergraduates nowadays. A university is a home for the preservation and furtherance of learning: the students are there to finance it."

"The reason why Oxford is better than any other university is because the scholars are of better calibre. What the young can have in the process of teaching themselves, is the opportunity of encountering real scholars and lives devoted to scholarship."

"That may sound a bit sententious, but it was what I was brought up to believe, and I still think it is right. When I hear of undergraduates who ring up their tutors at 2 am because they are in a bit of a state before their exams, I am speechless."

Those are the words of Mrs Mary Moore, author of lightweight sentimental thrillers, former diplomat, daughter of the late Vivian Galbraith, Regius Professor of modern history at Oxford, and the next principal of St Hilda's, while, next year, will be one of only four remaining single-sex colleges at Oxford.

Mary Moore's reverence for scholarship comes from her father whom she adored. "My father's scholarship was meticulous, dry as dust, a total vocation where no compromise or popularization was possible. It is because of him that I admire so enormously the life of scholarship—the thankless pursuit of truth, narrow, often exasperating, but a very great thing. But it was not for me."

She says she was "astonished and horrified" when St Hilda's asked her earlier this year if she would allow her name to be put forward as a candidate to succeed Mrs Mary Bennett, another former civil servant (colonial service) and also a daughter of another Regius Professor of History at Oxford, Sir H. A. L. Fisher. Mrs Bennett, who has been principal of St Hilda's since 1955, is due to retire at the end of this month.

"I was seriously startled," Mary Moore says. "In my view, heads of houses at Oxford were eminent scholars in their own right and people of great distinction. So the idea of my becoming a head was nonsense. I have had no contact with education since 1951. Fortunately, I haven't got a PhD, so I am not a 'failed scholar'. I am a diplomat with a great future behind me. I got out of the Foreign Office while I was still doing fine."

Mary Galbraith went up to Lady Margaret Hall in 1944, having spent the previous six years at a girls' boarding school, the Mount School in



Mrs Mary Moore: a vote of confidence.

up appointment as a vote of confidence in her."

Will Mary Moore lead St Hilda's into co-education? She believes in co-education for her 12-year-old son who attends Lord William's comprehensive school in Thame, but she is very cautious about committing herself to strong views on any topic concerning university life, with the exception of scholarship.

"I told St Hilda's that I thought they had been very sensible not to join the mad rush to admit the opposite sex. (Seventeen colleges were co-educational last September. Two more are due to

go next autumn.) It will be a year or two before the dust settles and there may yet prove to be a case for some single sex colleges in Oxford."

"I am not a women's liber, but I am a feminist. A feminist is a woman who wants to succeed in a man's world, but who is definitely not anti-man. The long-lasting relationship between a man and a woman is, for me, the most rewarding thing in life. My family will continue to be the centre of my life."

Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

## More hopeful future for diabetics

Asked if there is a cure for diabetes, most people would answer "insulin". Most people, that is, without a diabetic in the family—for the truth is very different. Medical treatment with insulin does not cure diabetes; it merely relieves the immediate, life threatening symptoms.

Diabetics who develop the disease in childhood or their teens face the near certainty of eventual damage to their eyes, kidneys and other organs from the effect of the disease on the small blood vessels throughout the body. Heart attacks, strokes, and circulatory disorders in the legs are all more common in diabetics than the rest of the population. Though these complications are usually less severe when diabetes develops later in life, they have been an unavoidable feature of the disease since the introduction of insulin 57 years ago.

Prevention of complications—blindness, kidney failure, and circulatory disorders—is, then, the main target of research in diabetes. After a long period of stalemate the mood of research workers has switched to optimism with the development of a series of technological innovations in treatment.

This research optimism is based on the conviction that the cause of diabetic complications is the crudity of present treatment methods. The body gets its

energy from the chemical combustion of carbohydrates, and insulin—a hormone secreted by the pancreas—is an essential factor in this reaction. Normally the amount of insulin in the bloodstream varies from minute to minute, depending on how recently food has been eaten and the amount of physical work being done.

Diabetics lack insulin, and although some can be treated with diet or tablets in younger patients, treatment is usually based on one, two, or sometimes three injections of insulin each day. As far as possible these injections are so timed that there is most insulin in the bloodstream when it is most needed, just after meals, but at best the result is a rough approximation to the normal balance between insulin requirements and energy consumption.

As anyone knows who has bought one of the fashionable woodburning stoves, good results depend on regular stocking. Filling the stove with wood twice a day gives little control over its output of heat. The effect of twice-daily stocking on diabetics is that the amount of sugar and fat in their bloodstream are rarely normal—and these chemical abnormalities are thought to be responsible eventually for the damage to the blood vessels that causes diabetic complications.

The traditional measure of the quality of a diabetic patient's control

is the amount of sugar in his urine. Sugar appears in the urine when there is too much glucose in the bloodstream—an indication of too little insulin. So for the past 50 years diabetics have been taught regularly to test their urine for sugar, and their dose of insulin is then adjusted accordingly.

The first of the new approaches in treatment is the replacement at the research stage—is a device which not only injects insulin but also measures the blood-glucose content and varies the dose of insulin so as to maintain the glucose in the normal range. An apparatus which measures glucose, calculates the insulin dose, and administers it is mimicking the normal functions of the body closely enough to justify the name "artificial pancreas". Preliminary trials by diabetics of portable artificial pancreas machines have given encouraging results, with reduction of the amounts of glucose (and other chemicals) in the blood normal.

As yet, of course, there is no proof that these methods of improvement in the chemical control of diabetes will reduce the frequency and severity of late complications—but the current generation of newly diagnosed diabetics face a more hopeful future.

Dr Tony Smith  
Medical Correspondent

## ENTERTAINMENTS

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OUTSIDE LONDON METROPOLITAN AREA.

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Children's parts are used for all parts from 10-16 on

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## ART GALLERIES

13 OLD BOND ST. Exhibitions of Pictures and Drawings until January 10.

BLAINE'S EXHIBITION OF VICTORIAN PAINTINGS. At 15a Clifford Street, SW1. Until December 20th.

COUGH, D. Abercrombie Street, London, EC1. New Acquisitions. Bazaar with raised tables. Tel: 01 401 12 50.

OF MANKIND. Burlington W. 1. Exhibition of the Arts After Total Eclipse. Suns. 2.30-6. Adm. free. Sun. 25-26 December, 1979.

PORTRAIT GALLERY. 110 NEW BOND ST. Portraits by British Photographers. Adults £5.00. Children £2.00. Sat 10-12.30. Sun 2 pm.

GALLERY. 11, Newcomb St. 1-55 Bldg. CATS OF FAME. Open Daily. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Sat 10am-1pm. Sun 2pm.

STAR STRUCK. December 15.

GALLERY. KODAK. 144 BAGFORD ROAD, BAGFORD. By Italian artists. Adm. £3.00. Sat 10-5.30. Sun 10-5.

J. ACADEMY OF ARTS. 1000 Academy, London, W1.

1ST IMPRESSIONISM. 1st March 1980. Open Daily. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Sat 10am-1pm. Sun 2pm.

ANNE FRANK MUSEUM. 16 ART OF HOLLYWOOD. January 10. ADULT £2.00. CHILD £1.00. Tel: 01 401 12 50. Closed Friday 20th February. Tel: 01 401 12 50. Closed Friday 20th January 1980.

THE TIMES SPECIAL REPORTERS.

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THE TIMES

## THE ARTS

## Generation game

## Heroes

## New End

## Irving Wardle

Plays "bringing West End spectators up to date with the Oxford young were once a standard consumer service, and my only complaint against Doug Lucie's comedy is that it panders too readily to the middle-aged impulse to dismiss under-graduates as obnoxious parsnips."

Two Oxford generations are on view, and there is not much to pick between the 1969 and 1979 vintages both having received the full benefit of Mr Lucie's talents for waspish dialogue and monstrously egotistic characterization.

The device holding the play's two acts together is a room, first

passing from a squat into the hands of the students' union,

and then reverting to the market when the 10-year lease expires. Another playwright misfire have used this form to draw a contrast between the social ideals of the 1960s and the return to narrow class privileges 10 years later; but that is not Mr Lucie's way. He does indeed follow up a

passionate young 1969 Marxist with a homosexual young 1979 disco dancer—both played to the arrogant baby-faced life by Philip Franks; but you would not give either of them the time of day.

There is another contrast between the play's two parts. The first act consists of a highly schematic comedy, bringing the Marxist bully into conflict with the American acid-trippers and the McCormick worker who responds to his ideological advances with a thump on the nose. The second act, which it introduces a Cowley shop steward (David Bamford) who passes reproachful comments on the decline of student commitment ("This place used to be a commune. Now it's just a normal house, thank God") seems to be drawn from the mess of ordinary life. Or, rather, the extraordinary mess: there is a suicide, an academic calamity, and a religious virgin sexually ignited by a porno magazine.

Aside from a general statement on human selfishness and no clear pattern emerges, and the characters are drawn with alarming vitality, extremely well played by Penny Cheshire's company, who extract as much effect from reversals as from continuity.

Summer With Monika Lyric, Hammersmith

## Ned Chaillet

The Beatles on the wall are the clue: They stare out from the wide, monochrome black and white photograph by Richard Avedon; each Beatle isolated, but formed into a group by the blackness of their clothes, the surrounding void and the openness of their staring eyes. The poster of today's star, Ian Dury, and references to today's record company, Stiff, are a diversion.

*Summer With Monika* is a voice from the past, in radio parlance, a "rave from the grave", from the once and future city of Liverpool.

It is a pop poem from that leading light of the Liverpool poets, Roger McGough, which

has already found its way into record sleeves as an album with music by Andy Roberts.

Moving on to the stage as a play it boasts both McGough and Roberts in its company of four actors, and Roberts doubles the leader of a band which consists of John Meggsison, Robert Kirby and Peter Russell Brewis, on, respectively, synthesizer, synthesizer and synthesizer.

The music is there for mood, for support for the occasional song and as a clue to the change of locations and characterization.

At times it is an undercurrent for McGough's straightforward recitation of poetry, but most of the crucial scenes are enacted by Gregory Floy and Alyson Spiro, who portray the confused lovers, Kit and Monika.

There is an identity that each should assume. Kit is a self-styled "young writer/performer" who sings for a band. Monika is an art school drop-out; but they are personae for a purpose, a stiff framework for a story of love, of passion, the decline of aspiration, infidelity and bland reconciliation.

The street-humour and broad sentiment of McGough's writing is adequate for the tale he tells, but even when it is not clearly a poem it remains poetic and barely dramatic. One ingenuous exception is a sequence that moves from night club parties to domestic confrontation and finally their separation during a duel in the night club.

McGough's production loses focus frequently, wandering around the stage design by Peter Blake with little sense of purpose, but there are good verbal passages from each performer. Disjointed and filmic, the production is never quite a play. Yet it weaves a kind of spell that ties the characters and musicians together, united, like the Beatles in Avedon's photo, in a void of nostalgia.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

## New ballet by

## Ronald Hynd

The British premiere of Ronald Hynd's *Papillon* will be given at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, on February 7 by the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet. The London premiere will follow at Sadler's Wells on February 19. The work, which was created for the Houston Ballet earlier this year, has a heroine who is transformed into a butterfly. The music is the only full-length ballet score written by Offenbach and the production is being mounted as part of the celebrations for the Offenbach centenary next year. Dancers in the initial cast include Margaret Barber, Stephen Jeffries, Carl Myers and David Bintley.

## Graham Greene's 'elegant comedy'

The Haymarket Theatre, Leicester, will give the premiere of *For Whom the Bell Chimes* by Graham Greene as part of its spring season. The play, described as an elegant comedy, will be presented in three acts from March 20 to April 12. Other audio plays are set for next year, including Hugh Whittemore's *Scandinavian Creditors* and a new translation of Alfred de Musset's *On ne badine pas avec l'amour*, entitled *A Love Match*.

## Charity gala

Natalia Makarova, the Russian ballerina, and Zizi Jeanmaire are among some of the world's greatest dancers who have responded to a call from Miss Jacqueline du Pré to take part in a gala at the London Coliseum next March to raise £50,000 for research into multiple sclerosis, the disease that stopped Miss du Pré's brilliant career as a cellist.

## Play competition

Alan Ayckbourn will be the final judge for the International Student Playscript Competition for unperformed plays written by students. Conditions and entry forms are available from the World Student Drama Trust, 20 Lansdowne Road, Muswell Hill, London N10 2AU. The closing date is December 31, 1980.



Offenbach approaches his first theatre in the Champs Elysées three years before the composition of *Mesdames de la Halle*; Leonard Pezzino and Marie-Christine Porta in that operetta at the Opéra Comique

## Hilarious start to Offenbach's centenary

A goodly number of the world's opera houses will next year be paying tribute to Jacques Offenbach on the hundredth anniversary of his death. *The Tales of Hoffmann* is the obvious and favourite choice: Salzburg and Covent Garden both have new productions with Domingo in the title role. Those with a taste for the exact, though, might be inclined to point out that Hoffmann was staged posthumously and has a further year to go before achieving its century.

However, Paris has this month participated in the centenary celebrations by turning over both its opera houses—the Palais Garnier and the Salle Favart, to the Memory of the Champs-Elysées. At the Opéra there is a revival of Patrice Chéreau's five-year-old production of *Hoffmann*, sharing the stage with the Ballet, although many of that company are down at the Palais des Sports with Nurseyer, who danced Manfred in his new ballet of the same name, for the first time last Saturday afternoon, as John Percival will report later. At the Opéra Comique Offenbach is in total command with a triple bill of one-acters, called appropriately enough *Vive Offenbach!* Paris, Offenbach's adopted city, has made

itself to beat by a few days Cologne, his native city, where *La perichole* produced by Glyndebourne's John Cox, opened on Sunday night.

The three operas which make up *Vive Offenbach!* (*Pomme d'api*, *Monsieur Choufleur* and *Mesdames de la Halle*) are played in reverse order of composition. On paper this might seem a perverse decision; on stage it is totally justified. *Pomme d'api* is a piece of froth, an apple soufflé, which Offenbach composed in his mid-fifties when he was turning out a number of operettas which looked back in part to his first works for the theatre. The plot, such as it is, leans heavily on *Don Pasquale*: a prosperous middle-aged bachelor is looking forward to the arrival of his new maid-servant; she turns out to be the mistress of his nephew, who has been kept on short commons by his uncle for the past couple of years. After half a dozen very lively songs and a quantity of champagne uncle succumbs, agrees to the marriage of the young pair and adds a substantial financial slice to his nephew's allowance.

Offenbach wrote the title role of *Lady-apple*, for the horrifically inclined) for the vaudeville star Louise Théo. At the Opera Comique Christine

Isaertel's performance, neat and flirtatious though it is, tends to be overshadowed by the broader playing of Jean-Philippe Lafont as the uncle and Leonard Pezzino as the lascivious nephew, Donizetti's Ernesto in the making if ever there was one.

The applause for *Pomme d'api* has scarcely died down before Bernard Dayde's set for uncle's comfortable tailoring establishment in Les Halles has been turned into the rather prosaic apartments of *Monsieur Choufleur* in the same *arrangement*. Robert Dhéry, as the uncle, and Charles Burrows, as the policeman Ratoff, Offenbach's equivalent of Sergeant Belcore. In sum, an evening of great hilarity and musical good manners under the conductor Manuel Rosenthal.

At the Opéra there are two major changes of cast in the *Hoffmann* revival. Kenneth Riegel lacks the magic Nicolai Gedda brought to the title role when the production was new. Gedda suggested that beneath Riegel's drunken and dishevelled exterior there was a visionary: Riegel, despite some intermittently warm singing, stresses the harshness of Patrice Chéreau's production too much. On the other hand Danièle Callobata, the new Olympia, is a delight: a trim and sparkling doll whose nose is pipped out before she falls apart before Hoffmann's eyes. Sylvain Cambreling has plenty of feeling for the score, but not yet the expertise of his predecessor Georges Prêtre.

John Higgins



Sui Kan Chiang and Ross Stretton in *Cinderella*

## Cinderella

## Manchester

## John Percival

After innumerable ballads set to a pot-pourri of music by the Strauss family, here is the British premiere of the only full-length score written by the younger Johann Strauss as a dress; the presence, not well explained of a mysterious barrel organ, and the help of two pet doves, which perform Cinderella's allotted evening task of sorting out some artificial flowers.

Consequently, there is not much in the way of a plot, but what there is mainly follows the traditional theme. The choreography is proficient, varied and at times funny, but it contains no great flights of imagination. Still it makes a pretty show, aided by Peter Farmer's designs, which are handsome even if they do not define a specific place or period.

The standard of male dancing in the company has developed impressively, especially with the acquisition of Ross Stretton from Australia. His dashing elegance, as the hero, is easily followed by Ian Knowles as his young brother, Sui Kan Chiang dances sympathetically as Cinderella, but Alexandra Worrall makes more of the character of stepmother than Kristy Farrow.

Robert de Warren's production for Northern Ballet Theatre mainly follows the plot of the first production in 1961. Its heroine is a milliner's assistant, her dream lover is the owner of the store she

has become a seafarer. He has become a seafarer saint who named war and violence as obscenity, and brought openness about sexuality into moderately good repose.

Television and radio may not see fit to broadcast his recordings in full uncensored flow, but his words and routines are back in nightclubs and there are no police queuing for the act.

Bits of *Lenny Bruce* is the movable bit that began its London life at the King's Head Theatre Club, moved on to the Old Spitalfields and now establishes a new policy of early evening shows in the Embassy Club in Old Bond Street. The team that plays in including the mad who put it together, Danny Braiman, have learnt the lesson about "tragedy plus time" and the nearest they come to the present is the current name of the Pope. What

Mr Braiman, Denis Lawson and Barbara Kuhl offer is a precisely drilled and wisely selected procession of Bruce's most theatrical fragments.

## Jacek Strauch

## Purcell Room

## Hilary Finch

It is always good to see a singer who enjoys his own recitals: from the minute he breezed on stage at the Jolly Alpine hunting in the first of six Schubert songs, Jacek Strauch engaged warmly and easily with his audience, and gained himself fine marks for performance.

But as he moved to the more thoughtful *Zugenglocken* and *An den Mond*, this provincial attitude showed itself at the expense of a vocal intensity, an expressive concentration, that cannot be underplayed in Schubert. In boisterous, buoyant mood, as in the "Romance" (of Richard the Lionheart), or in the satisfy-

ingly weighty solemnity of the first and third of Brahms's *Four Serious Songs*, Mr Strauch sang in fully supported and powerfully grandiose voice. But this is, as yet, incompletely integrated with the lighter, more lyrical voice which lacks a comparable intensity and power to move;

"Oh Tod, wie bitter bist du" was darkly resonant and particularly deeply felt.

After the interval, the Teutonic gave way to the Slavic with three songs by Tchaikovsky, three by Moniuszko, the underperformed nineteenth-century Polish composer, and four by Rachmaninov. Here Mr Strauch is both musically and emotionally at home, revelling in the romance of the music and the language of Tchaikovsky's "I love you, woods", sung with a nice smoky texture in the middle register, and

playing to the audience in the jaunty "Krakowisk" of Moniuszko.

But it was in the Rachmaninov songs, by far the most musically substantial of the evening, that Mr Strauch's full dramatic and interpretative powers were realized. The conversational lullaby, "To the children" turned into an anguished cry of desolation; and in the tragic "Arlon" and the grandly "Harvest of Sorrow" the 25-year-old baritone showed a maturity and vocal strength which has served him well already with Kent Opera and the Glyndebourne touring company, and which augurs well for the future.

Iain Ledingham's technical sense and musical sensibility at the piano made him a sympathetic, if not exciting, accompanist.

## London debuts

Saint-Saëns Clarinet Sonata, opus 157, is decently crafted but not inspiring, and it made a non-committal start to Steven Kanoff's recital. It showed, however, that he has a good technique, a clear tone and at least the music has a certain grace and elegance. Poulen's Sonata has similar qualities with an added cheekiness, and received an adroit performance, also from the pianist, Magdalena Hazzanovska. The *Romanza* was beautifully shaped.

Berg's *Four Pieces*, opus 5, are more serious, and far more varied in sound and gesture: they seem discursive yet are highly organized. The players must respond to this, and Mr Kanoff's interpretation bound together the music's diverse elements together to acutely expressive purpose. Finally, he and Miss Hazzanovska were joined by Kristi Bjarnason (cello) for Brahms's Trio, opus 114, an earlier stage in the same tradition. This was a well-inten-

tioned reading with some good moments, but, as often happens, the cello was covered by the piano in loud, fast passages. A brave piece with which to start a piano recital is Webern's Variations, which Noriko Kawai played quite well. But the main point was what happened in sonatas by Schubert and Scriabin. The former's late A Major D959, had obviously been prepared with much care and the notes were delivered immaculately. Yet there was little depth or direction to the Allegro and, although the slow movement's lyrical outer sections were finely sustained, Miss Kawai appeared to have little idea of what the notes meant in the scherzo or finale.

She got a better tone in Scriabin's Sonata No. 3, the first movement having something of the appropriate dark richness and a more convincing sense of forward motion. The Andante sounded ardent and exquisite, and it is a pity the other movements got rather out of control.

Liszt's *Mephisto Waltz*, No. 1

Max Harrison

- 4.15 pm. John Dunn. Music from a Deli. 9.02. 9.05 Sports. Cleo. 11.10. 11.15. 11.30. 11.45. 11.50. 11.55. 11.58. 11.59. 12.00. 12.02. 12.05. 12.08. 12.10. 12.12. 12.15. 12.18. 12.20. 12.

# How the Blue Chip Tories are raising their voices

When two Greeks meet, it is said, they set up a restaurant. Hiding behind the same oversimplification, it is a safe bet that when a new intake of Conservatives arrive in Parliament they form dining clubs, if only to give themselves moral support as they unravel the mysteries of the place.

It has happened on this occasion under the new Conservative administration, but in a way which could have important political implications. Though the Government came to power on a free market, non-interventionist, monetarist platform, the majority of the new backbenchers are not, as one of them put it, Poujadist to a man.

With the Parliamentary Christmas recess beginning this week, it seems an appropriate occasion to take stock and examine the performance of the new backbenchers and what they have been up to, including what takes place inside the "Blue Chip" and "Guy Fawkes" dining clubs.

More than 80 new Tories were elected at the general election this year and by general agreement, and to some surprise, the majority are in the centre or to the left of the Conservative party. This is probably a second basic reason for this. Many of them entered the political nursery in the middle-Sixties when Mr Heath was Leader of the party and cut their teeth, either as party backroom boys, or members of the Young Conservatives and the Federation of Conservative Students on Heathite policies.

This is not to say they are anti-Thatcher—the loyalty to a party leader inside the Conservative Party knows no bounds—but on some issues, and it is a matter for individuals, there is going to come a time when they will pose counter arguments.

It has happened already over immigration, when originally the promised abstentions were as high as nearly 40, not all of them, admittedly, being new members. As one of the new intake described it: "When the whip went down about it their operation was amazing. You could almost hear the crunch of heavy boots on gravel. I never expected to experience such an arm-twisting exercise."

The number was whittled down to 19, though Mr John Watson, a new MP for Skipton, a



Mr Christopher Patten and Mr William Waldegrave; high-flyers.

backbencher operator par excellence, calculates 21.

He has never checked his figures with the whips for the simple reason that he has not exactly struck up a rapport with the party's business managers since he came to Parliament. A former chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary candidates association, and a board member of John Waddington, the games manufacturer, Mr Watson is an independent minded as any of the new intake, has committed the ultimate sin of competing against his colleagues that for this reason he was put on the Scottish Grand Committee, which, for an English MP, is the equivalent of being sent to Siberia.

The candidates association, or more accurately, the parliamentary list of prospective candidates compiled by the Conservative Central Office is another clue to understanding the make-up of the new intake. Many of the liberal-minded MPs, particularly on social issues, were selected when Sir William Elliott was vice-chairman of the party and in charge of selection.

While a person in that position cannot thrust a candidate upon a constituency party, he can block an aspirant by refusing to put him on the list. Two who suffered that fate because of their right-wing views under Sir William, though they were subsequently successful and are part of the new intake, are John

Patten (Oxford) and Michael Hatfield

Carlisle (Luton West) and Harvey Proctor (Basildon).

Sir William used to keep in the bottom drawer of his desk a plaque on the free-market economy, by Mr Wynne Godley, director of the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge University, who has been preaching protectionism throughout most of the Seventies. The aim is not to be converted but to explore and examine his economic theories.

John Watson, inevitably, is the indirect link between the "Blue Chips" and the "Guy Fawkes" dining club, which also meets fortnightly but in the Commons. He is a member of both. They were given the title because their first meeting occurred on November 5 and was essentially about the Government's immigration White Paper.

One of the members is Stephen Dorrell (Loughborough), an articulate, intense but not humourous, energetic newcomer who earned himself a reputation by his speech during the immigration debate.

All of them have been active since they entered Parliament, their one great achievement being the court they scored over the right when it came to electing officers to the Tory backbench committees. Their only failure was on the finance and economic committee, which came first in the results of elections. "We learn from that," said one of them, "and we have got rid of it." There are eight more since the immigration vote. We now know we must stick together the next time we run up against the whips.

When the next time occurs no one yet knows, but it could come early in the New Year.

Their arguments, and they can be heard outside the group in private discussions, is that monetarist policies are not sufficient in themselves to solve the economic problems. The group's aim is to prevent the Government, to mix metaphors, getting on trainlines and ending up with a bunker mentality. The protectionists, who in some ways could be one step further in advance of incomes policy adherents, believe that selective import controls may become essential in order to halt the degeneration of British industry.

So far the group has not invited guests, but they are considering it as a development for the new year, and one of the names being suggested is that of the man who has been a plague on the free-market economy, Mr Wynne Godley, director of the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge University, who has been preaching protectionism throughout most of the Seventies. The aim is not to be converted but to explore and examine his economic theories.

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Michael Hatfield

To my astonishment and dismay, I find myself obliged to return to the subject of smoking. The occasion is occasioned by the fact that I thought I had said all I wished to say on the subject last week and the dispute sprung from contemplating the further avalanche of letters. I am inevitably going to receive as soon as this appears. But Professor Fletcher's reply (Letters, Thursday, December 13) to my comments on the radio programme in which he and I had participated is inexcusable, and his misstatements must be corrected.

The programme referred to was *You, the Jury*; the motion was "That smoking should be banned in public places"; the proposer was Mr Clement Freud, MP. The motion was opposed by Miss Araxia Stasinopoulos, who called me as a witness, to speak on the libertarian aspects of the argument. Mr. Freud, called Professor Fletcher as one of his two witnesses (the other was Lord Soper), and the professor put the medical case on the dangers of smoking, in a manner which reinforced my view that those who wish to stop other people "smoking" frequently do so in a fanatical manner.

The outcome of the debate was that from an initial vote (before the arguments and witness had been heard) of 45 for banning, 33 against, and 22 abstaining, our side, which opposed such a ban, won by 50 to 49 with one abstention.

Of this encouraging result I wrote:

"...the bums' case was nailed into its coffin when their doctor [Professor Fletcher] asked what should happen to those who broke the no-smoking ordinance and then either could not or would not pay the resultant fine... said 'Oh, they must be sent to prison'." That is what I mean by fanaticism and who shall say that a less strong word would be more appropriate?

"The exact and accurate description of what happened displeased Professor Fletcher, who replied, as I say, in a letter to this paper. In this he said (I have left out nothing pertinent to my argument) that my column was "full... with description", and went on:

"...three minutes before the debate started Mr. Levin insisted on making it total. He said: 'It is my own insistence that his side could only win the debate by making it ridiculous'."

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# NORWAY

days of uncertainty about its ability to continue in office, the minority Norwegian Labour Government has survived a crucial vote on its Bill to limit pay rises. A truce was taken yesterday. Norway's price freeze ends on New Year's Day. Denis Taylor writes.

It is a long time since the last election. Seven years ago, the minority Norwegian Labour Government, led by Odvar Nordli, looked despite differences with the Opposition, to carry through pay rises, 15-month prices and freeze ends on December 31. Most of the areas of government had been overseen by the parliamentary committees, one issue suddenly capable of unseating government. This was in the legislature to put unions to the Norwegian LO, in a privileged

unionized workers' unions outside would have had their rights to the level of the LO. Half of the LO's members are outside the LO. This proposal is not only of the Left but also of the Right. It could fall if the Government did not succeed in the second crisis, faced him within just two weeks and had suddenly changed from a normally undramatic Norwegian politics. Labour Party went a period of self in the approach to meeting in Brussels. The key item on the agenda was to deploy a new generation of nuclear missiles in Europe. But this was not enough to carry Labour wholeheartedly with the Prime Minister. An important party gathering at Lillehammer showed uncertain support for new theatre nuclear forces (TNF) deployed in Europe.

After a session of the Parliament, Labour Group two weeks ago, it was suddenly announced that Mr Nordli was flying to Washington and that Mr Rolf Steen, Minister of Commerce and party chairman, was going to Moscow. This travelling balancing act was certainly dramatic with the Soviet



photograph: Edith Raff

was unprecedented unilateralism to dispatch a minister to Moscow at such a delicate stage in Nato negotiations.

Mr Karel Willoch, leader of the Conservatives, the largest opposition party, with 41 seats compared with Labour's 76, rejected the Prime Minister's argument that the Government was not obliged to discuss party matters with other parties or other Nato governments. The Conservative leader called Mr Nordli's visit alarming. Mr Willoch said the Prime Minister was confusing party and state in his desire to talk to the Opposition.

But this was a time when the Prime Minister was more concerned with fissures appearing inside his own party than with bipartisanship. In the last general election in 1977,

Parliaments have a fixed four-year term, with local government elections serving as mid-term popularity

nuclear policy had split Labour and produced results of the local elections three months ago, Mr Nordli sought to refurbish his administration's image and performance with a sweeping Cabinet reshuffle.

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At well as doing better between 70 and 80 per cent of its trade with the Community, the Norwegian rank

to Brussels about an increasing variety of questions, including trade, energy, industrial, transport and fisheries policies.

Oil has also made other countries keener to develop contacts with Norway.

The Norwegians were on the brink of joining the European Monetary System (EMS), but drew back when it became clear that Britain and Sweden were not taking the plunge.

The proposed deal between the Norwegian Government and the Swedish Volvo company came to nothing last January when the Volvo shareholders vetoed the scheme. This saved the Oslo Government from the possibility of an embarrassing vote in the Storting. But the failure of this project does not necessarily mean the end of all prospects of a marriage between Norwegian oil and Swedish technology. Indeed, economic logic points towards such a partnership.

The less, been a low level of inflation. The consumer price index shows a rate of 4.8 per cent for the 12 months ending in July.

The Government's new strategy is to seek to limit pay increases throughout the economy by law to the levels of those scheduled to be negotiated by the existing between the employer organization and the Norwegian TUC, the LO, with the Government acting as a third party. Such a law is unprecedented in a country where half the labour force is outside the LO. The aim is to stop a wages explosion after January 1.

The LO does not look likely to press for wages much out of line with the rate of inflation. Norwegian workers appear to have made the connection between wage levels and domestic and export prices.

But the central economic question is whether Norway has learned that it cannot escape restraints imposed by the world economy. When the other industrialized economies went into recession in 1974, Norway decided to stimulate growth and maintain the highest possible employment by borrowing heavily abroad against its oil. The average Norwegian annual rate of unemployment since the war has been about 1 per cent.

With unions negotiating separately, wages rose by up to 20 per cent and inflation reached 11.7 per cent. Exports lost their competitive edge between 1974 and 1977, but some ground has been recovered during the freeze.

The level of indebtedness incurred during the push for growth remains high. At the end of September, official statistics put it at \$20,000m.

Norway now faces a greater variety of international issues than ever before. It has to decide how to handle its oil and gas wealth. It has to deal with Soviet maritime ambitions in the Barents Sea, which could also have interesting petroleum deposits. It has a delicate role to play in Svalbard (Spitzbergen), where the Russians, who form a bigger community than the Norwegians, have been testing the sovereign state, Norway.

The Norwegians might well have agreed to Russian helicopters and an airstrip on Svalbard had they been asked, but the point is that the Norwegians were not asked. Both superpowers now see Svalbard as strategically important.

If oil is taken into account, Britain is Norway's largest trading partner, but Oslo is cultivating a closer relationship with the EEC in general.

Michael Frenchman describes the oil scene

## Mood of realism and cautious optimism

In the past five years Norway has undergone a change from professional optimism to almost cynical pessimism where oil is concerned. Today a mood of realism and practicality prevails coupled with cautious optimism for the 1980s. The lessons have been hard: rapid inflation, one of the largest foreign debt ratios in the world, and one of the highest unit labour costs. But now the scene is changing and the Government does seem to be getting its oil sums correct.

Production is about 40 million tonnes a year and the Royal Norwegian Petroleum Directorate expects this to rise to 50 million tonnes of oil equivalent (oil and gas) by the end of next year, which will be one of the most crucial in the country's oil development programme.

The Storting (Parliament) has already put a ceiling of 90 million tonnes on oil production, approximately 10 times the country's needs, in order to prevent unnecessary inflation and to satisfy the demands of domestic and international financial housekeeping. But Mr Arve Johnsen, managing director of Statoil (the national oil agency), and the Labour party see no need to accelerate the oil development programme in the next decade.

The strong lobby, which has held the key to development in the north, wants a much reduced output. Mr Johnsen believes that the 90 million tonnes mark will be reached by the 1990s as the result of encouraging new finds made this summer. One of them, the gas field in the so-called block 31/2 made by the major partners, Statoil and Shell, may be the largest gas strike in the North Sea. Estimates of the reserves in this new field range from three to 10 times that of the giant Frigg field. Gas has been found at a deep level, 325 metres, which will cause some production difficulties.

The proposed deal between the Norwegian Government and the Swedish Volvo company came to nothing last January when the Volvo shareholders vetoed the scheme. This saved the Oslo Government from the possibility of an embarrassing vote in the Storting. But the failure of this project does not necessarily mean the end of all prospects of a marriage between Norwegian oil and Swedish technology. Indeed, economic logic points towards such a partnership.

The field has yet to be proved conclusively, and test drilling—which was to have been finished by now—will not take place until next year. Production will not begin until the late 1980s.

Government economic policies, notably the prices and wages freeze, have received wide support. The freeze, imposed for months, is scheduled to end on New Year's Eve. Such factors as rising import costs

make next year. Although there are likely to be a number of political skirmishes, it is doubtful if there will be any serious delay. The Fishermen's Association, which has held the key to development in the north, wants a much reduced output.

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But the central economic question is whether Norway has learned that it cannot escape restraints imposed by the world economy. When the other industrialized economies went into recession in 1974, Norway decided to stimulate growth and maintain the highest possible employment by borrowing heavily abroad against its oil. The average Norwegian annual rate of unemployment since the war has been about 1 per cent.

With unions negotiating separately, wages rose by up to 20 per cent and inflation reached 11.7 per cent. Exports lost their competitive edge between 1974 and 1977, but some ground has been recovered during the freeze.

The level of indebtedness incurred during the push for growth remains high. At the end of September, official statistics put it at \$20,000m.

Norway now faces a greater variety of international issues than ever before. It has to decide how to handle its oil and gas wealth. It has to deal with Soviet maritime ambitions in the Barents Sea, which could also have interesting petroleum deposits. It has a delicate role to play in Svalbard (Spitzbergen), where the Russians, who form a bigger community than the Norwegians, have been testing the sovereign state, Norway.

The Norwegians might well have agreed to Russian helicopters and an airstrip on Svalbard had they been asked, but the point is that the Norwegians were not asked. Both superpowers now see Svalbard as strategically important.

If oil is taken into account, Britain is Norway's largest trading partner, but Oslo is cultivating a closer relationship with the EEC in general.

In the past five years Norway has undergone a change from professional optimism to almost cynical pessimism where oil is concerned. Today a mood of realism and practicality prevails coupled with cautious optimism for the 1980s. The lessons have been hard: rapid inflation, one of the largest foreign debt ratios in the world, and one of the highest unit labour costs. But now the scene is changing and the Government does seem to be getting its oil sums correct.

Production is about 40 million tonnes a year and the Royal Norwegian Petroleum Directorate expects this to rise to 50 million tonnes of oil equivalent (oil and gas) by the end of next year, which will be one of the most crucial in the country's oil development programme.

The Storting (Parliament) has already put a ceiling of 90 million tonnes on oil production, approximately 10 times the country's needs, in order to prevent unnecessary inflation and to satisfy the demands of domestic and international financial housekeeping. But Mr Arve Johnsen, managing director of Statoil (the national oil agency), and the Labour party see no need to accelerate the oil development programme in the next decade.

The strong lobby, which has held the key to development in the north, wants a much reduced output. Mr Johnsen believes that the 90 million tonnes mark will be reached by the 1990s as the result of encouraging new finds made this summer.

One of them, the gas field in the so-called block 31/2 made by the major partners, Statoil and Shell, may be the largest gas strike in the North Sea. Estimates of the reserves in this new field range from three to 10 times that of the giant Frigg field.

Gas has been found at a deep level, 325 metres, which will cause some production difficulties.

The proposed deal between the Norwegian Government and the Swedish Volvo company came to nothing last January when the Volvo shareholders vetoed the scheme. This saved the Oslo Government from the possibility of an embarrassing vote in the Storting. But the failure of this project does not necessarily mean the end of all prospects of a marriage between Norwegian oil and Swedish technology. Indeed, economic logic points towards such a partnership.

The field has yet to be proved conclusively, and test drilling—which was to have been finished by now—will not take place until next year. Production will not begin until the late 1980s.

Government economic policies, notably the prices and wages freeze, have received wide support. The freeze, imposed for months, is scheduled to end on New Year's Eve. Such factors as rising import costs

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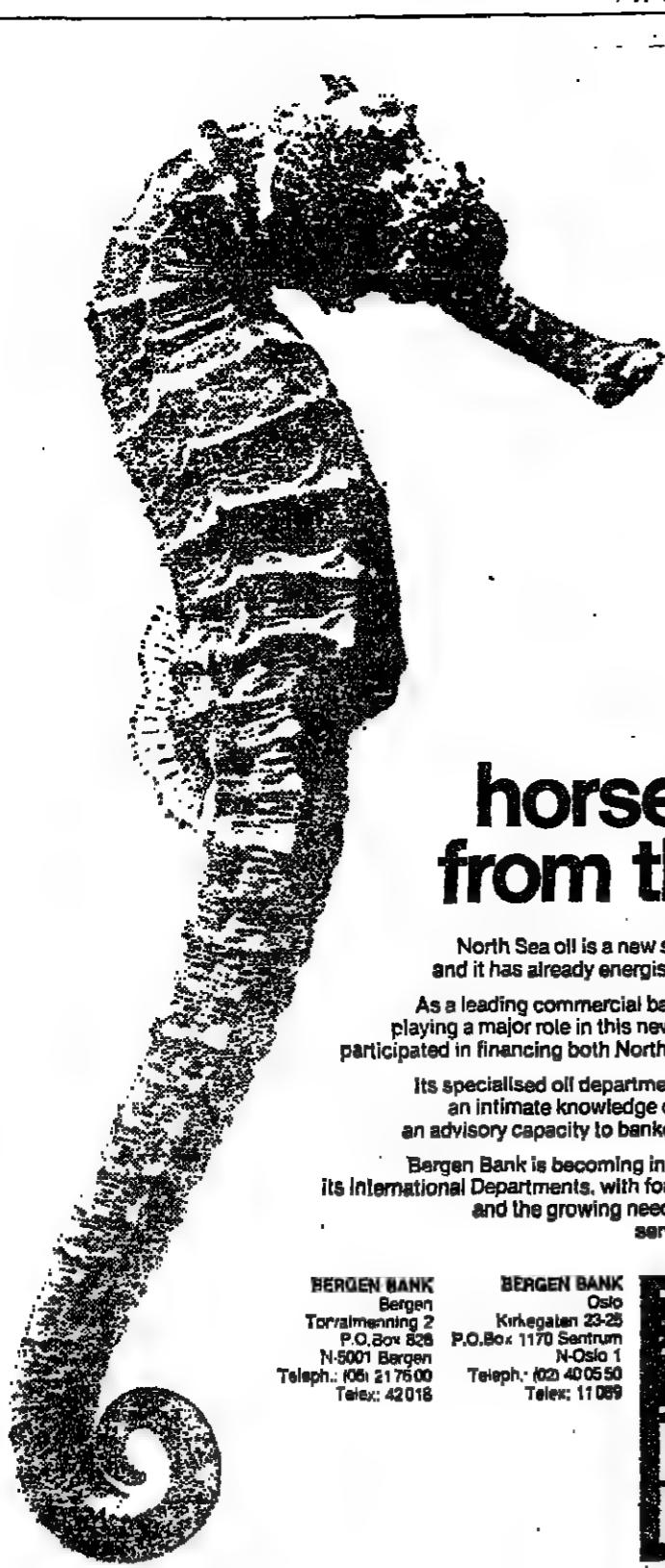
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The level of indebtedness incurred during the push for growth remains



## More horsepower from the sea.

North Sea oil is a new source of energy for Norway, and it has already energised the Norwegian economy.

As a leading commercial bank, Bergen Bank is naturally playing a major role in this new revolution, and has already participated in financing both North Sea and on-shore activities.

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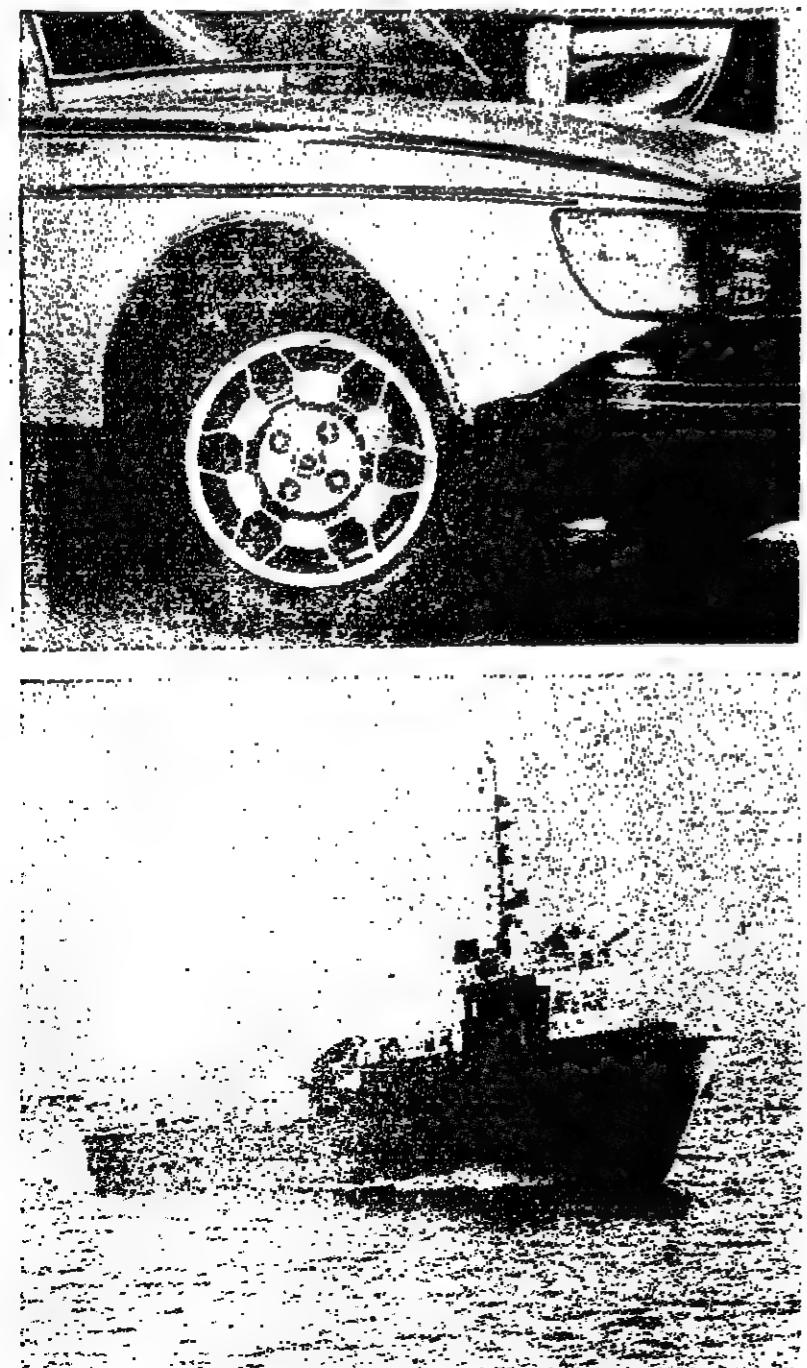
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Bergen  
Torgallmenning 2  
P.O.Box 828  
N-5001 Bergen  
Telex: 106 217600  
Telex: 42018

**BERGEN BANK**  
Oslo  
Kirkegaten 23-25  
P.O.Box 1170 Sentrum  
N-Oslo 1  
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The Times Special Report on Finland will be published on February 27th 1980.

## ALUMINIUM APPLICATIONS UNLIMITED



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Extracted from its ore by solar (hydroelectric energy), aluminium is cheap enough to permit its use in household and consumer goods, yet it is also the obvious choice for highly exacting service in aircraft, space modules, motor vehicles, scientific instruments and elsewhere where precision and stability are essential.

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- corrosion resistance
- good formability
- high thermal and electrical conductivity
- attractive appearance
- low specific gravity
- high strength/weight ratio (alloys)
- low energy requirement for recycling

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ASV is the largest producer of aluminium in Norway. The Group has some 7,400 employees, and sales in 1978 amounted to 2,600 mill. kroner (equivalent to US \$ 500 mill.), some 80% being accounted for by exports.

The Group gives high priority to product development, and feels convinced that in years ahead we will see wider and wider use being made of aluminium.



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## NORWAY

Industrial growth in many sectors is bringing the economy out of the doldrums and reflects a continuing upswing but employment remains a problem

## A gleam from black gold

The past year has seen some dramatic changes in political and economic fortunes of the five Nordic countries. There have been elections in three. In case of Denmark and Norway there have been clashes between the minority Liberal and Labour governments respectively and the trade unions. Both these countries have severe unemployment problems. But Norway, unlike the unfortunate Danes, has the "black gold" of the North Sea to fall back on—enough for many a rainy day if the economic planners get their policies wrong.

However, the past 12 months have seen a sharp improvement in Norway which has had a growth rate of over 4 per cent—the same as the 1967-74 average.

Increasing oil revenues,

estimated at 22,000m kroner this year, a 10 per cent increase in exports, an improvement in the balance of payments deficit for the first seven months from 7,400m kroner last year to 4,100m kroner; and a substantial fall in unemployment after a minor winter of discontent have contributed to the short term.

If world oil prices rise there is likely to be a surplus in the balance of payments current account position. With continued improvement

in many areas likely in 1980 it is in the new Cabinet. Industrial appears to be held at a fairly constant figure of about 4.7 per cent, one of the best in the Nordic region. It did worse five years ago when false optimism over oil policy, particularly riches set in. This will make it essential for the Government to maintain as full employment level as possible. Already, approximately one in four jobs are subsidized directly or indirectly by the state.

As part of its general strategy the Government is already insisting that companies bidding for new oil concessions must also submit an offshore job creation programme (see oil story). In joint ventures with international companies.

With two top trade union

## Exports improving

The Norwegian export industry has improved its profitability during 1979, assisted by a wage freeze begun in September 1978 and also as a result of the devaluations in 1977 and 1978. The stock of exports, which increased more than normally in 1975-77 because of the Government's counter-cyclical policy, has been reduced by more than 40 per cent, and expectations are that it will remain low for the next three months.

Production for export (including petroleum) increased by 11.5 per cent for January-September. Seasonally adjusted indices for July-September, excluding petroleum, show an increase in industrial production for export of 3 per cent more than the previous quarter.

Export prices increased by 11 per cent more during the first six months of 1979 than during the corresponding period in 1978, while import prices rose by 7 per cent, thus improving the terms of trade by 4 per cent on traditional goods.

The average wage for men and women in the manufacturing industries increased by 4.9 per cent in the first six months in relation to the corresponding period in 1978, but costs to the industry increased by 7.4 per cent because of new regulations for sickness benefits and so on, together with a productivity increase of 5.2 per cent. This resulted in an increase in

wage costs. However, it is expected that the final result for the year may be somewhat lower. If this is so, Norway's competitive ability will be improved by 9 to 10 per cent in 1979.

Production for consumption goods showed a modest increase of 1.7 per cent in the January-September period. Most of the growth occurred in the third quarter and there are indications that these growth tendencies are continuing into the fourth quarter. Retail trade volume was nearly 2 per cent less in the January-July period with furniture and appliances proving sluggish, and car demand increasing steeply towards the end of the period.

Production of investment goods has declined by 3 per cent in the January to September period. This must be seen in conjunction with the low level of investment by foreign oil companies in 1978.

Performance investments were slowest in August and a moderate growth is expected to take place during the latter part of 1979.

The metal mining industry is benefiting from the higher international prices, and production volume is up 10 per cent on the January to September period compared to 1978. A substantial part of the increase came in the third quarter. Including oil and gas, the total mining index shows a 20 per cent increase, with signs of improvement for the remainder of 1979, due especially to

larger output from the Elkisk field.

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## Boost for pulp

On June 28 a new company was formed in Norway which will have the effect of centralizing further the activity of the nation's paper mills. The result of new exports and the exploitation of North Sea oil, the figure dropped to only 6 per cent.

Norsk Virkesimport, known as Norwood, is a joint venture created by the industry to cover all imports of pulpwood, the Norwegian Paper and

Pulp Association (NPPA).

In southern and eastern Norway, its establishment underlines new basic facts about the industry. Home-grown raw material is no longer available in sufficient quantities to maintain the industry at its present level and full use is essential in the fight to improve profitability.

Cooperation is now the key word in the Norwegian industry as companies face a slowing of growth in the European market and greater competition from the North Americans.

Norway has imported large quantities of pulpwood for a number of years and in the past decade imports have amounted to about two million cubic metres a year, worth some 400m kroner (about £37m).

Exports of pulp and paper have played an important role in Norway's economy since the start of the century but this has declined in more recent years. During the 1950s, the value of pulp and

paper exports amounted to 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the nation's total foreign sales, but today, mainly the result of new exports and trades and the exploitation of North Sea oil, the figure has reached about 500,000 tonnes.

Last year proved to be particularly damaging. A survey of 22 Norwegian wood processing companies reporting 95 per cent of the sector's turnover shows there was a total deficit of 107.8m kroner (£10m).

This year there has been a marked improvement.

Total exports of paper and board rose by 25 per cent in tonnage and 28 per cent in value in the first quarter of 1979 compared with year earlier.

It is an encouraging sign that the industry is pinning much of its hope for the future on exports.

A few months ago four of the leading paper makers, Norsk Skogindustri, Follum Fabrikker, Unic and Saabbrugforeningen joined forces with the state to build a new 600m Kroner (£55,500,000) plant, which, it is hoped, will turn Norway from an importer of bleached kraft pulp into a significant exporter from 1980.

Edward Townsend

## Mood of realism and cautious optimism

continued from previous page

In particular "royalty oil", which is paid by the operators coming to the state in pieces of cash, is now the subject of much controversy between the Labour party and the opposition groups.

Difficulties like this and constantly varying demands as to revenues and production make the struggle to maintain employment and create new jobs an unenviable task for any government. Because of this it was conditional, in the fourth round of concessions last April that oil companies receiving licences should guarantee to establish some kind of above-based operation which would create new jobs. This "job creation" provision applied to eight awards, and the Government hopes that joint ventures and cooperation agreements between oil companies and industry will become an established pattern for the future.

Some of the agreements include a joint company formed between Amoco Chemicals and Jonni which will produce and market chemicals for use in the oil industry itself.

There is a major co-operation plan with the West German group Demlers, which is looking at an iron-slag processing plant at Emden for which Norway would supply the raw material. An option agreement with AVE and Volvo will examine the feasibility of producing a plant in Norway for supplying light metals and plastics for the building, motor and packaging industries. Superior Oil Norge and a number of Norwegian industrial companies are planning a 45m kroner copper and iron ore processing plant. How successful projects of this kind will be remains to be seen, but there is no doubt that the abortive deal with the Swedish giant Volvo a year ago has provided a new stimulus to the oil industry link.

The most successful field so far is the Ekofisk complex which is being developed in four stages. Production started in 1971, and two stages have been completed. Last summer production amounted to more than half a million barrels of oil a day. The oil is pumped 354km to Teesside, and gas from the field goes 442km to Emden in West Germany. Production has been halted on at least three occasions by accidents, the most important being the blow-out on the Brava platform in April 1977.

It is this last event that has given the Norwegian environmentalists such a field day in their fight to prevent further

*Jed's 101 Sos*

Michael Frenchman looks at how a typical traditional herring fishing port  
is dragging itself into the oil age

## Town that refuses to lie down



and three-quarters of exploration and development hour north-west across of the oil and gas resources by high-speed cam on the Norwegian side of the an from Stavanger lies North Sea. Stavanger, where Haugesund, a typical traditional herring fishing port, is drilling platforms or above the old wooden houses that line the narrow channel which divides town, Haugesund is trying to drag itself into the oil and become an alternative.

North Sea oil harbour is big over-crowded neighbour, Stavanger, or the less sloped Bergen to the h. His part of Norway, med by the Gulf Stream, a bridle coastline indented by thousands of deep-er firths. It is at present the area closest to the Stavanger and Bergen.

What makes Haugesund interesting is that it is a town that refuses to lie down, and be bypassed by the oil business. It feels that more government direction should have been applied to the oil business also has an office or representative, now bursting at the seams.

The New White Paper on drilling north of latitude 62 has suggested alternative oil supply ports should be established or developed elsewhere. Some companies, such as Amoco and Gulf, have already been said to establish their base in Flora, for some of their exploration activities as well as on other sites away from the city itself.

But shipbuilding activity fell drastically last year and the largest yard in the city, Hengesund Mekaniske Verksted, had to reduce its labour force to 1,000. The town has now won a contract for a 300m kroner coastguard vessel as well as a small tanker conversion which will enable laid-off workers to return to the yard with the possibility of new men being taken on besides.

This old-established yard

and has been in constant demand. The dock and harbour are only just over two miles from the open sea, a substantial advantage over Stavanger and Bergen.

One of the leaders in planning the future development of the city has been the harbour-master who saw himself as a latter day Pied Piper of Haugesund for a procession of slow-moving oil rigs and platforms to the port for servicing and repair, besides all the other business that goes with the oil activity.

Norwegians are notoriously dour in their approach

but Mr Odd Michael Odland, and his assistant, Mr Trygve Bjørnerem, are two exceptions. The harbour-master convinced the town authorities that it had to spend money to attract more oil business and it has now almost completed a £23m offshore deepwater base on a small island linked to the city by a narrow causeway. This has an area of 25,000 sq metres and offers a deep-sea quay of 160 metres, with a depth of 50ft, and longer quay of 230 metres with a depth of 22ft.

The quaysides are extremely strong, enabling large prefabricated modules of type used on oil-drilling and production platforms to be handled. The town hopes that the new facilities will attract widespread interest. Already a leading drilling contractor and supplier is expected to establish its base in the port.

Perhaps one of Mr Odland's most enterprising moves since he came to the city six years ago, was to turn the decline in world shipping to his advantage. South of the Garpesjaer, the old part of the port, is the historically interesting bay of Bøvagen. This small, almost landlocked bay with a sandy bottom is overlooked by an ancient church, St Olav's, founded by King Haakon in about 1230. Surrounding the church are many old ship burials from the Viking and previous eras. The Romans also came there.

Today, only a hundred metres or so from the church, huge gas tankers of up to 250,000 tons lie at anchor, laid up because of the decline in demand. These vessels need safe harbours, protected from the wind, because when in ballast their towering top-sides present a tremendous area of steel which acts as a "sail" when exposed to the wind. Anchored at Bøvagen are

some 100 ships of various nationalities, mostly from the Middle East, who have now left their job with the port authority and are working for the Norwegian central port directorate, travelled to many countries, from Algeria to Indonesia, to persuade ship owners to bring their vessels to Haugesund for lay-up where they bring in up to 500 a year in mooring fees.

At one time there were five of the world's largest ice carriers moored together representing the greatest insured value of shipping at any one place.

Today there is only one ship and that came straight from the maker's yard and has never been in commission. It is hoped that more ice carriers might be joining it from the Far East in the not too distant future.

Although there are still some employment difficulties in Haugesund there is a will to survive and the town is more liberal in its attitude to the outside world than some of the "valley" towns. Its forward-looking attitude together with the about-turn in the overall economy of the country will no doubt ensure its survival for many years to come.

## Norway means business.



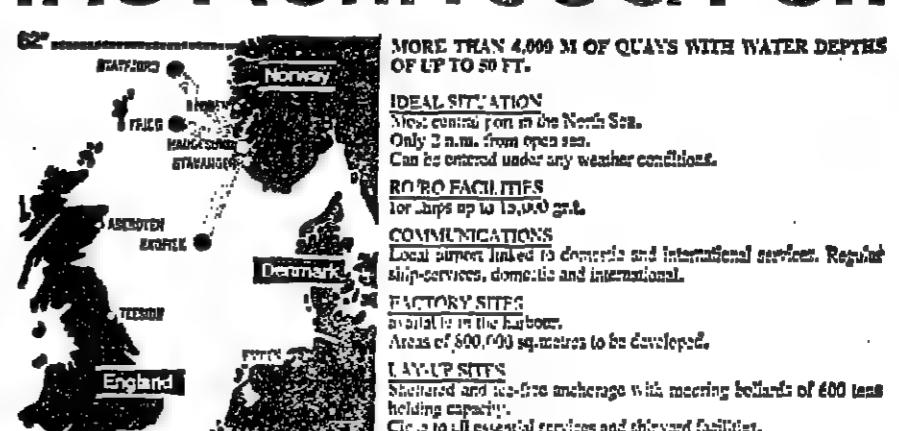
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## -THAT'S NORWAY

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Earlier this year Statoil, Norway's state oil company, began surveys in conjunction with oil exploration. Although the chances of discoveries of commercial scale are considered to be slim (previous searches have failed to find any significant oil or gas reserves), the possibility cannot be ruled out totally. Similarly, the islands are thought to contain much greater coal reserves than previously expected. Total coal reserves according to Store Norske Spitsbergen Kullkompani, which works the mine could be at least 200 million tons in 5,000 square miles.

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P.O. BOX 3716 GG, N-OSLO 1

Peter Hill, Industrial Editor, describes how shipbuilding is getting back afloat, and visits a place where West lives with East

## Ebb tide begins to turn

There are signs that at last the ebb tide which Norway's gross freight income for shipping and shipbuilding industries have been stemming beginning to turn. But it will be some time yet before the flooding favourably for

the industries have full force of the internal recession in shipping, consequently, in the level of shipbuilding orders and Government (as in so many other maritime countries) has been forced to take an assortment of measures to ensure that Norway's maritime traditions and knowledge are not lost.

Nils Werring jr., president of the Norwegian Shippers' Association, observed at the organization's annual meeting earlier this year of progress for Norwegian shipowners — in contrast to the previous five years.

High freight rates, the

depreciation of the shipping market, the tendency to dispose of ships has considerably reduced and the fleet is likely to remain close to that level. The better conditions experienced by Norway's shipping community has enhanced the prospects for the country's shipbuilding industry which has been forced to cut back substantially on its levels of activity because of the depressed state of the world shipbuilding market.

Four years ago Norway's domestic owner subsidy has been lifted from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of contract price, while further funds have been allocated for export orders to developing countries and the amount of government aid available for restructuring of shipbuilding activities has been increased.

Earlier attempts by the

Government to stimulate new orders from domestic shipping companies produced only a trickle of orders and further measures

By the middle of 1979 the Norwegian fleet amounted to 848 vessels, totalling were introduced to promote 38,300,000 tons and all the orders. The measures in signs are that with a stabilised credit scheme for

the period to mid-Octo-

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## NORWAY

Annelise Hopson looks at both sides of the argument between industrialists and conservationists

## Safeguarding the environment provokes debate

**OIL POLLUTION**  
SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT  
PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Seaway Falcon /  
Seaway Hawk / Seaway Sandpiper /  
Seaway

The programme, which is scheduled to be completed by 1983, has led to a great deal of adverse comment from the private sector and from industrial organizations. They claim that these excessive measures, coupled with high production costs, are making Norwegian industrial goods uncompetitive on the world market.

Important new factors in the environmental debate are oil exploration and drilling north of 62°N and the controversial question of hydroelectric developments in some heavy spots in the northernmost parts of the country, some of which are important reindeer grazing grounds.

Whichever way you look at it, pollution is a sensitive question. One of the big issues is the effect of acid rain which is slowly ruining the soil. This has little calcium to absorb the acid, and damage is being caused to fresh water streams and

The acid comes mainly from the heavy industries in central Europe and Britain. A conference was held in Telemark in 1976 at the project in which 20 countries—among them Britain and six inter-governmental organizations—participated.

The objective of the conference was primarily to discuss international research into the effect of precipitation and the deposition of sulphur compounds on forest and fresh water ecosystems. The effects of sulphur dioxide on human health were also discussed.

The issue remains that the increasing acidity of the "soot downpour" has had a striking effect on chemical and biological conditions in fresh-water systems, particularly in the southern part of Norway. This part of the country consists mainly of submarine bedrock that is highly resistant to chemical weathering.

"Air pollution is a major problem in Norway. This led some years ago to promote international cooperation to solve it. The Economic Commission for Europe convention signed by 32 states in Geneva last month is regarded as an important step forward. The convention provides a fundamental basis for further cooperation on a number of issues jointly to combat air pollution," Mr Rolf Hansen, Minister of the Environment, says.

From statements made by various countries at the conference there is every reason to assume that practical and concrete work programmes will be submitted when the parties meet early next year to discuss the follow-up."

Pollution is not only a problem as far as air precipitation or oil is concerned. Like many other countries Norway is trying to protect its natural environment. Although the country still gets almost 100 per cent of its electricity from hydroelectric sources these still pollute streams and rivers, even though hydroelectric power is one of the cleanest sources of energy.

Last year the Storting (Parliament) debated the question of whether to allow two hydroelectric power plants to be constructed which would have affected the river systems on the Hardangervidda mountain plateau. This is a particularly beautiful area with two waterfalls and many reindeer.

Recently the parliamentary report concerning the Hardangervidda was discussed in the Storting. The Government's proposal to establish a national park and a landscape protection area on the Hardangervidda was approved. The issue was submitted to the Storting because of the special interest in and scope of the proposal.

Last year the Storting voted by 90 against 36 votes to construct a new hydroelectric power plant at the Alta Canyon in Finnmark, Norway's northernmost county. Last October the Government decided to postpone this highly controversial hydro-power development. The decision was made after the Government had received urgent appeals from the opposition parties in the Storting and also because clashes of interest between the developers and the conservationists had become more and more marked.

The climax of the conflict was reached in October when seven Lapps (the original inhabitants of Finnmark, which is a very important reindeer grazing district to them) put up a tent outside the Storting and started a hunger strike in protest against the development work. At about the same time the Prime Minister received 10,700 telegrams from all parts of the country.

Most of them had similar texts supporting the claims of the Lapps but not explicitly against the development plan for the Alta river. The present stand of the Alta issue is that the Government in the near future will submit a report to the Storting on what has happened on the implementation of the decision made by the Storting concerning the development of the Alta river. It may be expected that the review of this report by the Storting will be a new debate about the justification of the issue itself", the Minister of the Environment says.

However, a spokesman from the Norwegian Federation of Industry said: "We must have more hydroelectric power plants but that is not enough in the long run. Within 10 years there ought to be alternative sources of energy because hydro power will no longer be sufficient."

The present situation of uncertainty about nuclear power plants is intolerable. The Government has decided to deep-freeze the debate until the main media are backing this policy. The industrial sector believes that nuclear power is to be preferred to coal or oil and the question ought to be debated soon."

The minority Government, however, has stated that during the 1978-81 period no planning or building of nuclear power plants is envisaged.

Another problem facing the Government is whether to start drilling for oil north of the 62nd Parallel. This question involves pollution and energy as well as fishery.

After strong criticism from both the Opposition and the Minister of the Environment the question of drilling for oil north of the 62nd Parallel has evoked considerable discussion.

The Minister of the Environment says: "There has been no disagreement within the Government on exploratory drilling north of the 62nd Parallel. There has, however, been a discussion related to the question of

when an acceptable level of will be discussed by the Government risk, including adequate oil Storting before the exploration control emergency drilling is started."

Some of the demands from the environmentalists have been met. The Government has met some of the demands from the environmentalists by pro-

gramme's report to the Storting, posing measures which will limit the effect of possible blow-outs and pollution from the rigs. Last October pro-

posed rules to prevent pollution and the accumulation of refuse from petro-

leum activities on the continental shelf were approved.

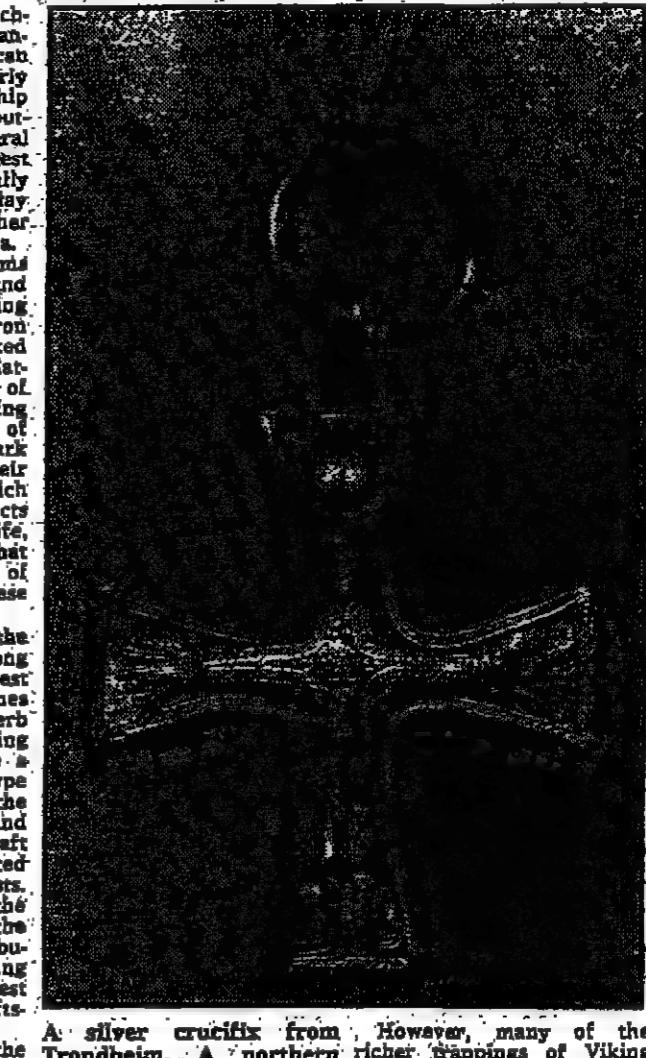
In a parliamentary report

on petroleum exploration north of the 62nd Parallel

the Government advocates

an annual subsidy of about 35m kroner to the fishing industry.

## Viking exhibition for London



Norway has one of the richest Viking heritages in Scandinavia and nowhere can this be seen more clearly than at the Viking Ship Museum at Bygdoy just outside the capital Oslo. Several ancient ships, the longest 70ft long, have been fully restored and are on display together with many other relics from the Viking era.

Apart from the items themselves the simple and practical method of showing the vessels on their iron stands which can be looked at from small viewing platforms gives an impression of grandeur and scale. Looking at the blackened timbers of the ships against the stark white of the halls with their brightly lit alcoves in which are shown many objects from the Viking daily life, it is hard to believe that journeys of thousands of miles were made in these trail ships.

The largest ship is the Gokstad which is 76ft long by 17ft wide and is the best preserved. Its simple lines are an epitome of superb and aesthetically pleasing naval architecture. It is a practical landing-craft type of vessel compared to the much more ornate and slightly smaller Oseberg craft which has highly decorated and symbolic sternposts. Carved friezes run from the waterline to the top of the posts. These represent fabulous beasts from pre-Viking days. It is one of the finest examples of Viking craftsmanship.

A silver crucifix from Trondheim. A northern image of Christ, elaborately dressed and with a moustache, is bound to the cross with thongs.

Many items showing the extent of Viking artistic skill from the ships to jewelry, weapons and household goods are to be seen in London next year when one of the most comprehensive exhibitions about the Vikings will open at the British Museum on February 14. It is an unusual exhibition because it is the first time that so many items will be seen together. This perhaps helps to emphasize the widespread nature of the voyages that the Viking traders made in their longships.

They left their mark in the form of commercial trading posts and farms from the Caspian Sea to Ireland, Greenland and North America. Many of the exhibits are coming from museums and collections scattered over just as wide a range. Some of the wooden items are too large and too fragile to leave their place in the Scandinavian capitals.

Michael Frenchman

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## HE RISKS OF NUCLEAR POWER

reful justification is needed a decision to go out and buy product which recently came to devastating half Pennsylvania by accident. The Government's announcement that it will allow the first of a new generation of nuclear power stations be a pressurized water reactor (PWR) of the kind, though not same design, that burnt out Three Mile Island is a decisive ask with Britain's twenty years trying to develop a nuclear industry entirely on our own. Since

British industry is widely acknowledged to have a more serious attitude to the problems safety than the American, it natural that chauvinistic ret should be touched with unjustifiable alarm.

at this stage, however, it is and indeed almost inevitable that we should acquire the technology of the PWR. But nations vary so greatly over the clear issue that the case will opponents at almost every stage of the argument. There are those who doubt whether need a large addition to our generating capacity in the next years. Many who accept need insist that the dangers nuclear power as such are so that it cannot be an acceptable means of filling the gap, ie who favour nuclear power that the PWR is not safe enough to trust.

While official policy for the stage of nuclear development has remained in the doldrums, public anxieties here not had much to feed on, nor feelings in Britain run less high than they tend to neighbouring countries in so (perhaps because) of the what we are more used to served by nuclear installations than most. Yesterday's announcement may provide a for a more passionate debate. The questions raised are such importance to the future our society that they deserve careful rehearsal,

the first stage of the argu-

ment is widely accepted. It rests on the concept of the "energy gap". Energy demand is expected to rise steadily to the end of the century, while the price of imported oil will double in real terms (leaving aside the possibility that some political cataclysm may cut it off altogether). North Sea oil and gas will begin to run out after 1990. Speculative new sources of energy, such as solar power, windmills, or nuclear fusion, cannot become a major factor before the end of the century at best. Conservation can and must make a contribution, but even the 20 per cent saving in efficiency assumed by official forecasts still leaves a wide gap to fill. The controversially large existing programme of new investment in coal mining will not be sufficient to fill the gap by itself. Still larger investment in mining, fuel imports, or extra nuclear capacity will be required.

Barring accidents, nuclear power would be the cheapest of these, and home-mined coal the most expensive. The latter would also carry heavy environmental costs. Both have the advantage of being relatively free from the political uncertainties over supply that may gather round imported coal or gas (uranium, the raw material for nuclear power, is also an imported fuel, but its sources are claimed to be relatively reliable). Given the risk of profound social upheaval if a drastic shortfall in generating capacity ever occurred, the uncertainties suggest that it would be wise to pursue the nuclear option as well as the other alternatives. In this matter above any other, we have to keep ourselves fully covered.

The question of type of reactor is not a difficult one, even after Three Mile Island. The second home-grown generation of gas-cooled reactors have run into serious problems at the building stage. The method cannot be relied on to provide the capacity when it would be

needed. For the stability of the industry, it is necessary to have a steady prospect of orders ahead. It is only prudent to seek experience now in the technology of the type of reactor which, in spite of one major disaster, is still the most widespread and successful in the world. The British PWR will be a freshly designed machine, subject to rigorous British safety regulations, as well as no public inquiry... and parliamentary approval. It will resemble Three Mile Island in its working principle, but not its details. If the problems with the AGR are solved, it will still be possible to return to that method later. Once again, the important thing is to keep ourselves covered.

But while we are covered, we should use the time to carry on a perpetual scrutiny of the relative risks of nuclear power and the alternatives. No type of reactor is entirely immune from the danger of major accident. The risks are far from being fully understood—there are still puzzles surrounding the Pennsylvania incident. The remote danger of a catastrophe that is difficult to visualize—with perhaps thousands of people afflicted with radiation sickness and large tracts of land inaccessible for decades—must be set against the much more certain but more familiar environmental and human costs of the alternatives. Every year accidents in British coal mines cause scores of deaths and many hundreds of serious injuries. What rate and type of accidents is society prepared to absorb to safeguard its energy sources? There are also dangers in the security problems of ferrying radioactive material about the country—though these are problems that are already with us. It would be foolish complacency to say that the nuclear option is safe, or even the safest among other options. But it can be said that not to pursue it thermostatically with the other choices seems far more risky than carrying on.

Yours faithfully,  
M. M. WATSON,  
Faculty of Economic and Social  
Studies,  
University of Wales,  
Aberystwyth.

## Conserving energy

From Mr M. M. Watson

Sir, Discussion of energy policy omission, exemplified by a recent Europa statement (*The Times*, December 4) by the EEC Energy Commissioner. While there is concern for economies of oil, there is little consideration of conservation. Yet by conservation, energy consumption can be restrained without diminishing economic growth.

The fallacy is to believe that energy conservation must keep pace with, or even outstrip, economic growth. Official policy assumes

that supply has to match unregulated demand, which is tied rigidly to economic growth.

Consumption rates are simply extrapolated forward. A conservation policy focuses on controlling demand rather than supply, through the efficient use of energy.

Efficient energy use is for a massive programme of insulation and energy recuperation (both very beneficial for employment), not to save all for the marching of energy sources to their appropriate end uses. A major example here is the elimination of electricity for heating, for which it is inefficient.

A recent study, *Energy Future*, by a Harvard Business School team, should be required reading for policy makers. It opts decisively for conservation (plus small solar technologies) as the most sensible strategy, financially, economically and politically. As growth of energy demand has already slackened and shows signs of economic growth, only an irrational infatuation with nuclear power politics—the Thatcher Syndrome?—can lead in priority to stepping up supply rather than pursuit of overall energy efficiency to restrain demand.

Yours faithfully,  
M. M. WATSON,  
Faculty of Economic and Social  
Studies,  
University of Wales,  
Aberystwyth.

From Dr R. Hawley

Sir, In tropical countries, many of the hotels are air conditioned to provide cool eating and sleeping accommodation. Why then are British hotels overheated, to the point of discomfort, when all that is needed is to simply alter a thermostat to save both hotel running costs and precious energy and at the same time improve guests' health?

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT HAWLEY,  
Managing Director,  
NEI Parsons Ltd,  
Heaton Works,  
Newcastle upon Tyne.

From Miss Mary Goldsack

Sir, Hot and bothered NES (Admin) worker.

At work, I wear my summer clothes in winter. At home, I wear my winter clothes in summer.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY GOLDSACK,  
Fryernway Farm,  
Dorset.

## Grants for legal training

From the Chairman of the Bar and the President of the Law Society

Sir, We wish to support strongly, on behalf of both branches of the legal profession, the plea made in these columns on Monday (December 10) by Mr Oliver and Professor Smith for the extension of local authority grants to all students who need them for their legal vocational training.

Those able students who themselves or whose parents have not the means to finance this training should not be excluded from entry to the profession. That most needy intending students do presently receive discretionary grants simply makes the plight of the minority who do not score unjust. The Royal Commission on Legal Services strongly recommended mandatory grants should be available.

The present Education Bill follows in general pattern one presented by Mrs Shirley Williams, but not enacted, in 1972. The earlier Bill contained a clause enabling the Minister by Regulation to provide for mandatory grants in five categories of cases. Vocational training leading to professional qualifications was the fifth. For some reason this fifth category has been cut out of the present Bill. Since it does not immediately disburse money but only gives powers to the Minister to do so if he thinks fit, it is hard to see why it should be deleted.

During the debate on Mrs Williams's Bill, Mr. Mark Carlisle strongly welcomed the inclusion of vocational training in this clause and we earnestly urge him to restore it to his present Bill.

Meanwhile, we hope those few local authorities which do not make discretionary grants will come into line with the majority which do.

Yours faithfully,

PETER TAYLOR,  
Chairman of the Bar,  
J. C. STEBBINGS,  
President of the Law Society,  
The Senate of the Inns of Court and  
the Bar,  
11 South Square,  
Gray's Inn, WC1.

## Put out by a cab driver

From Mr D. M. Murison

Sir, There must be no other major city in the world where a taxi driver would put a young girl out of his cab in a deserted street at midnight. This is what one of your London cabbies did to my 18-year-old daughter last night at the Angel, several blocks from her house, because she was not clear how to direct him to her street. She had been in England one week; the cabby, one presumes, lives here.

Of course, she should have taken his number, refused to pay or refused to get out. However, she walked home through streets that no one here goes alone at night. My host had assured me that London cabbies are the best in the world. I can assure you that they are the most irresponsible.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID GREEN,  
Rhod y'r Hardig,  
Castle Morris,  
Nr Haywards Heath,  
West Sussex.

David Green,  
Secretary,  
Board of Management for Methodist  
Residential Schools,  
25 Marylebone Road, NW1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Revenue powers of search and entry

From Mr Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham and Crawley (Conservative)

Sir, The decision by the Law Lords to overturn the judgment of the Court of Appeal with regard to the Inland Revenue's rights of search and entry, raises serious issues. Lord Wilberforce, in the course of giving judgment for the Revenue, said that the defendants "had not been told what the precise nature of the fraud was, when it had been committed, or by whom it had been committed. In the case of a bank, without that knowledge, the officer of the revenue was totally unable to protect his confidential information from investigation and seizure." His Lordship could not believe that that did not call for a fresh look by Parliament.

The fallacy is to believe that energy conservation must keep pace with, or even outstrip, economic growth. Official policy assumes that supply has to match unregulated demand, which is tied rigidly to economic growth. Consumption rates are simply extrapolated forward. A conservation policy focuses on controlling demand rather than supply, through the efficient use of energy.

Efficient energy use is for a massive programme of insulation and energy recuperation (both very beneficial for employment), not to save all for the marching of energy sources to their appropriate end uses. A major example here is the elimination of electricity for heating, for which it is inefficient.

A recent study, *Energy Future*, by a Harvard Business School team, should be required reading for policy makers. It opts decisively for conservation (plus small solar technologies) as the most sensible strategy, financially, economically and politically. As growth of energy demand has already slackened and shows signs of economic growth, only an irrational infatuation with nuclear power politics—the Thatcher Syndrome?—can lead in priority to stepping up supply rather than pursuit of overall energy efficiency to restrain demand.

The position therefore is that every MP Conservative and Labour, with no but one exception, who sat in the House between 1970 and 1979, voted both for these powers and against them.

It seems to me that this is a profoundly unsatisfactory base to found a law which confers upon the Revenue powers to break into a man's home and take what papers it likes without saying either then, or months later, what is the nature of the supposed offence.

### Charter 77 appeals

From Professor František Janouch

Sir, On December 20 the Supreme Court of the Czech Socialist Republic will hear the appeal in the case of Mr Petr Uhl and five other Charter 77 signatories and active members of the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted (VONS) who had previously been sentenced to terms of imprisonment of up to five years.

One of the fundamental principles of the Czechoslovak judicial system is that proceedings take place in public (Article 103 of the Czechoslovak Constitution). VONS activists consist of collecting and publicizing information about police persecution and verdicts which, in the committee's view, infringe Czechoslovak laws or are unjust. According to the Czechoslovak Criminal Code, such activities cannot be the basis of any criminal offence.

Moreover, the activities of the accused were in full accord with the right to petition guaranteed by Article 29 of the Czechoslovak Constitution. This provision gives the right to individual citizens or groups of citizens to express their opinions and tender submissions to the authorities. Nothing in Czechoslovak legislation prevents petitions from being made public.

The Prague trial also dealt with and condemned the financial assistance provided to victims of political and police persecution by solidarity committees abroad.

The Charter 77 Foundation was established on the basis of the

I do not doubt that the Revenue has an exceedingly difficult task in carrying out its duty to the public.

But Parliament has an even more important task to see, in *The Sunday Times* that Britain asserts in this country or that failure to do so would mean giving Iran freedom to default with impunity on its liabilities. My article was focused, not upon the question of hostages, but specifically on the dangers to the world monetary system and to world trade and politics which arose from the Iranian threat in relation to their balances of payments due to the injury of the dollar and default at which upon their debts.

I argued that the Americans had little choice but to act as they did and that we should not undermine their action by placing British courts in the position where they have to order American banks in hand over dollars which their own law forbids them to pay.

But Parliament's role in this matter has been ambivalent to say the least. When these powers were originally introduced by the last Conservative Government in relation to VAT, they were opposed by the Labour Opposition and by two Conservative MPs. The Opposition was strongly satisfied at that time by a letter to your newspaper from the President of the Law Society and the Chairman of the Bar Council, protesting vigorously against the nature of these powers.

But when the Labour Party took office, it introduced the same measures on behalf of the Inland Revenue as it had itself opposed in relation to Customs and Excise. For its part, the Conservative Party in opposition opposed the measures which it had formerly supported.

The position therefore is that every MP Conservative and Labour, with no but one exception, who sat in the House between 1970 and 1979, voted both for these powers and against them.

The cry of liberty ought not to be invoked when it means the liberty to always leave the other fellow to pay the bill.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM DON,  
14 Celine Close,  
Bletchley,  
Buckinghamshire.  
December 15.

Swedish Cultural Monksman Prize, awarded to Charter 77 in December, 1978. The foundation provides financial help on humanitarian principles to dozens of families. Cultural, religious, trade union, socialist and other democratic organizations and individuals in Europe made donations to the foundation. The aid is provided impartially, regardless of the alleged criminal, political, religious or cultural activities of the convicted persons.

Our only aim, and this clearly applies also to all other solidarity committees, is to alleviate the plight of hundreds of people who are jailed, dismissed from work or otherwise persecuted for their opinions.

People in the West often do not realize that in Czechoslovakia persons not employed as a result of their political views do not receive any unemployment benefit, either from the state or from the trade unions, and that families of people serving sentences have no income whatsoever, not even children's allowance.

Since the financial help provided by the Charter 77 Foundation is remitted invariably legally, through banks, such remittances being approved by the Czechoslovak authorities, this strictly humanitarian action in no way infringes Czechoslovak law.

Yours truly,  
FRANTISEK JANOUCH,  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees,  
Charter 77 Foundation,  
Bergborsewagen 62/11,  
S-182 64 Taby,  
Sweden.  
December 17.

rehabilitation of the blind and partially sighted, handicapped school-leavers and community care of the old.

Research is only one aspect of the work of the PSSC. It has undertaken wide-ranging consultations with groups representing the elderly, the mentally ill, the physically handicapped, children in care and families of serving soldiers.

The transfer of certain Council functions to other bodies will not remedy the damage done if it is closed. The users of personal social services include many of the most vulnerable members of our society.

Their needs are complex and various. The loss of the only independent advisory Council which represents their interests and monitors the services which they receive is bound to jeopardize the considerable advances which have been made.

The short-term savings in expenditure will be minimal; the Council's budget for next year has been set at £214,000. The longer-term costs of closure could be far greater.

We urge the Minister to think again.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT PINKE, B. ABEL-SMITH  
(London School of Economics), A.  
COLLIS (Birmingham), B. DAVIES  
(Kent), M. DAVIES (East Anglia)  
W. GEORGE (Kent), F. MARTIN  
(Glasgow), R. A. PARKER  
(Bristol), G. PLOWMAN (LSE), R.  
SMITH (Southampton), A. T. WILLCOCKS  
(Nottingham), A. T. WILLCOCKS  
(Nottingham), London School of Economics,  
Hough-on-the-Hill, WC2.

December 12.

### Advice on social services

From Professor R. A. Pinker and others

Sir, We are writing to you as teachers and researchers in the field of social policy to express our deep concern and dismay at the recent decision of the Secretary of State for Social Services to close the Personal Social Services Council (PSSC). The Council was set up in 1975 by a Conservative administration to advise Ministers on the policy issues affecting the whole range of personal social services, and to keep under review the interests of the users of these services, many of whom are children at risk, elderly and handicapped people and other disadvantaged groups.

The work of the Council is unique. It provides a forum for consultation and debate between central and local government and the voluntary sector on matters of welfare. Its work affects a whole spectrum of welfare issues. It has already carried out valuable research on aspects of welfare policy concerned with the quality and efficiency of the personal social services.

In default of a body like the PSSC, the future ordering of welfare priorities is more likely to be carried out on a piecemeal basis, leading to replication and waste of resources. In times of economic stringency it becomes all the more vital that decision making about priorities at every level is informed by up-to-date research findings.

The research interests and activities of the Council currently include fire risks in residential homes, the

### Milking the dairy

From Mr David Green

Sir, I do not know whether it is otherwise recorded but in these parts, where milk bottle tops are not as common as they are in Tom Hix's (December 12), Blue Tits and Great Tits regularly strip soft pus out of newly glazed windows, presumably for the loused oil which it contains. I cannot say that this adaptation is any more welcome than their interest in butterfat.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID GREEN,  
Rhod y'r Hardig,  
Castle Morris,  
Nr Haywards Heath,  
West Sussex.

December 12.

### Dam buster

From Mr J. de Blok van Kujfeler and Mr C. R. Baird

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Tom Putman (December 17), has forgotten the essential ingredient of the defences against which Sir Barnes Wallis was pitting his wits:



autious step  
to the  
clear age  
age 17

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Rhodesia looks  
to year  
of growth  
page 16

### Stock markets

FT Ind 421.3, down 2.0;  
FT Gilt 65.10, down 0.15

### Sterling

\$2,198.5, unchanged

Index 66.6, down 0.1

### Dollar

Index 84.4, up 0.1

### Gold

\$479.5 an ounce, up 39.5

### 3-month money

Inter-bank 16.13/16, up 16;  
Euro 8.14/15 to 15

### IN BRIEF

### Piran ficial quiry

The Department of Trade will begin an official inquiry into affairs of St Piran, the mining and processing group. The secretary will be Mr Gerald Tait, QC, and Mr Alan Steele, an accountant by trade, Marwick Mitchell.

A move comes after a day's St Piran annual meeting on Friday, and after a decent official inspection at the company's offices in August and October. A department has ordered inquiry under section 165 of the 1948 Companies Act to allow for "a general investigation of the company's affairs and under section 172 in the same act, which is concerned with beneficial shareholding. Formal contacts have been between the department, Stock Exchange and the over Panel.

### paid tax rates up

Interest rates on unpaid tax to be increased on January 180, from 9 per cent to 12 per cent. Interest on unpaid duty rises from 6 per cent per cent. Interest on certificates of tax deposit was last Monday from 16.1 per cent.

### British loans

UK European Investment Bank has loan £15.07m for projects in Scotland. In Dumfries, £11.07m has been used to help the Shetland Islands Council to build the new oil terminal. Voe to the North Sea oil firm, Birkenhead and Sons (Scotland) £4m for a whisky bottling plant.

### Oil at fresh peak

Oil closed at a new record £75.5 an ounce in London, up £70 on Monday. Some Middle East buyers are swapping dollar holdings for gold. Oil exchange markets were really quiet.

### yd's changes

Colin Thomas, secretary of the Lloyd's insurance ring, is to give up the post immediately full-time on his report, which is expected to command sweeping changes in Lloyd's disciplinary structures and standards on self-assessment next spring.

**er textile workers**

Textile industry employees by 5 per cent over the 12 months to November, according to Textile Statistics Bureau. Workforce fell by a further 10,000 in October, bringing the decline to 3,500. There little change in activity for December.

### our TV sales up

Our television sales in October were 40 per cent higher than the previous month and 7 per cent ahead in the 10 months of this year, rising to the British Radio and Manufacturers' Association (BREMA).

### ryster deal agreed

Productivity deal worth £500k was accepted yesterday by 4,000 manual workers in engine plant of Chrysler in Coventry.

### ll Street falls

All Street closed 5.97 points to \$38.65 on trading in 10,000 shares.

### THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells	Bank buys	Bank sells
Iraqi 5	2.60	1.95	2.60	1.95
Irish 50s	26.80	27.10	26.80	27.10
Im Fr	66.00	62.50	66.00	62.50
Ind 5	2.62	2.55	2.62	2.55
mark 5	12.23	11.68	12.23	11.68
mark 50	8.42	8.05	8.42	8.05
new Dm	9.35	9.27	9.35	9.27
new Dr	3.98	3.77	3.98	3.77
new £	11.25	10.65	11.25	10.65
new Lira	183.00	175.00	183.00	175.00
new Yen	533.00	528.00	533.00	528.00
new Zealand Gld	4.39	4.16	4.39	4.16

### PRICE CHANGES

oil & gas	10p to 21.5p
ring	15p to 12.4p
ce Dean	5p to 5.5p
nd Mkt	2p to 2.5p
new Dm	15p to 12.4p
new Dr	7.00
new £	9.00
new Lira	183.00
new Yen	533.00
new Zealand Gld	4.39

## Petrol price rises on way as Opec meeting draws to end without agreement

From Nicholas Hirst,  
Caracas, Dec 18.

Mr Hart said it was "not unlikely" that Nigeria would align its prices with Libya and added that an increase to \$30 "was an inference" which could be drawn.

But Nigeria may end up with an even higher price. The Libyans are pressing for a base price of \$34 for all Opec trades and Algeria has indicated it would support a price of between \$30 and \$35.

These three crude are similar to North Sea oil and their price is used by the British National Oil Corporation (now charging just over \$26 a barrel) as the "marker" level.

It is becoming more and more clear just how slow the chance of any agreement on a price structure in an interview with an American television reporter.

Iraq, traditionally an Opec pricing "hawk", has become a strong moderating force. Mr Ezzedine Ali Mirouk, oil minister, said he intended to hold the price of Qatar's crude oil, raised \$6 last week, to \$27.42 for all of next year.

The chances of North Sea oil prices topping \$30 a barrel in the new year strengthened when Mr A. K. Hart, the Nigerian oil minister, indicated his country would follow Libya in charging \$30 a barrel for crude oil.

## Threat of halt to growth rate

By Caroline Atkinson

Oil price rises could bring Western economic growth to a standstill next year, according to reports from Paris.

These say that sources close to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development expect the OECD to forecast 1 per cent growth next year, the industrialized world.

Although Britain is to some extent isolated from the worst effects of dearer oil by output rises in the price will leave the United Kingdom worse off on balance. This is partly because Britain is not yet self-sufficient.

Every 10 per cent rise in the



Mr Ali Akbar Moimfar, the Iranian oil minister, in Caracas.

price of oil means a 0.3 per cent off the OECD growth rate, according to some experts.

Higher oil prices could push the OECD countries \$45,000m (about £22,000m) into the red on their combined balance of payments next year.

In addition Britain is hit by the slowdown in world trade and output that results from higher oil prices.

British officials are anxious to dispel the impression among some EEC partners that the United Kingdom has done well out of recent oil price rises, which could lead to stagnation.

Mr Howell's statement is that the Government believed there must be continuing nuclear power station orders if Britain's long-term energy supplies were to be secured and current industrial uncertainties resolved, was welcomed last night both by the CEBG and by the CEEB.

Mr Stewart, chairman of the British Nuclear Forum, an

oil, so the extra cost of dearer imports outweighs the extra benefit from higher-priced exports.

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Japan has claimed that the additional oil is needed because the international oil companies have decreased Japan's quota of crude.

During the past two days, Mr Carswell has told Japanese leaders that sanctions against Iran would fail if the United States refused to resold large quantities of Iranian oil to third countries. This was described in Washington as "insensitive action".

Saderat Iran, the Iranian Commercial Bank, had been frozen after the decision by the Carter administration on November 14.

Saderat Iran started proceedings to free it on December 4 against the Credit Lyonnais, the first non-American bank to be fully pursued.

The money, on deposit with Saderat Iran, the Iranian Commercial Bank, had been frozen after the decision by the Carter administration on November 14.

It had asked the Government to amend the Energy Act, which stipulated that it must continue to supply gas to industrial customers which had contracts before 1976. This had prevented British Gas from taking industrial contract prices to levels competitive with oil.

Credit Lyonnais has agreed to unfreeze its \$15m of Iranian assets it has been holding since the "freezing" of its subsidiary at Nassau in the Bahamas.

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## Pressure on Congress to speed up Chrysler aid

The United States Congress is under intense pressure, before it goes into recess at the end of this week, to complete legislation for the rescue of the Chrysler Corporation.

Chrysler could go bankrupt unless Congress acted swiftly, majority leader, Mr Tip O'Neill, told Congress to approve a rescue plan by the ailing car company, but Mr Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, said he was no longer confident there was sufficient time for Congress to act.

Mr Lee Iacocca, Chrysler's chairman, said an additional \$100m (about £45m) in short-term financing must be provided by the Government to avoid a cash crisis in mid-January.

If Chrysler Bill is passed this week, it may well involve roughly \$1,200m of Government loans—guarantees contingent upon \$600m or more of unguaranteed bank loans to Chrysler and upon a partial wage freeze at the company.

### Greek aircraft plant

An aircraft repair and maintenance factory, representing an investment of £150m, was inaugurated by Mr Constantine Karanassis, the Greek Prime Minister, at Tanagra, 40 miles north of Athens.

### Store chain accused

Trade unionists from four European countries meeting in Geneva accused the Dutch-based C and A retail store chain of systematically replacing full-time workers with part-time staff and discriminating against women, minority groups and non-Catholics.

### Roche prices appeal

Hoffman La Roche the Swiss drugs group, is appealing in West Germany's Supreme Court against a West Berlin court order requiring it to cut the price of its valium and librium tranquillizers. A judgment is expected in a few weeks.

### VW factory plan

Volkswagen, the West German motor manufacturer, is considering opening an assembly works in Austria to produce a four-wheel drive version of its Mini-bus. Talks have been taking place with Austrian officials over facilities for producing 8,000 vehicles a year, but no agreement has yet been reached.

### Japan steel output

Japan's crude steel production between January and March is expected to total about 27.75 million tonnes—down about 500,000 from an estimated 28.25 million tonnes in the October-December period.

### Mines to close

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation is to close down five small coal mines in its Kayford-Boone-Nicholas division indefinitely. Some 500 workers will be affected by the closures.

### Prices curb

Brazilian businessmen have been told they will be subject to severe financial penalties if they raise consumer prices unfairly during the government's drive to cure the country's economic problems. The government is establishing a network of watchdogs charged with monitoring the cost of key consumer items.

### Japan growth

Japan's private research institute on the national economy said it predicts economic growth in fiscal 1980 starting next April will be five per cent, compared with an estimated 6.2 per cent this year.

It also forecast the current account payments deficit will narrow to \$2,400m.

### Unemployment up

The average monthly number of unemployed in West Germany will be close to 1 million in 1980 and the use of shortened working hours will expand, Herr Josef Stiglitz, president of the Federal Labor Office said in an interview with the West Germany Economic News Agency.

### Investment control

A motion to give control of foreign investments in Uganda to the country's interim parliament, the National Consultative Council, has been passed unanimously by the council.

### Decline denied

The Saudi Arabian Ministry of Finance and National Economy described reports of a serious decline in the official foreign exchange reserves of the kingdom as totally misleading. There had been reports that Saudi Arabian foreign exchange reserves had declined by about \$13,000m from the end of 1977.

### Wages law

The Storting, Norway's parliament, has approved a new wage regulation law proposed by the Labour Party minority cabinet. The new law takes effect January 1 and will replace the country's 16-month wage and price freeze.

Banking analysts foresee rise in gross domestic product of 15-20pc

## Rhodesia looks to growth in 1980

Rhodesia, hit by seven years of debilitating bush war, is expecting 1980 to be its first year of real economic growth since 1974. The effect of sanctions being lifted by Britain and the United States, however, is likely to be slight and gradual.

Banking analysts in Salisbury foresee a rise in the gross domestic product of 15 to 20 per cent, due in part to a promising start to the growing season. This is offset by an expected increase in the rate of inflation from around 12 per cent at present to 14 per cent or more.

Rhodesia ceased publishing annual import and export figures in 1972, when imports were running at 291m Rhodesian dollars (£19.4m) and exports at 340m dollars.

A survey by the Standard Bank Group published in Salisbury estimated that last year exports had reached 600m dollars while imports stood at about 420m dollars.

Given greater access to international markets by the lifting of the trade embargo, earnings from Rhodesia's exports—mainly agricultural products and minerals—should improve some 15 to 20 per cent. But import costs, especially in the wake of oil price increases, are expected to increase by at least 10 per cent.

Nevertheless, business and banking analysts foresee an overall improvement in foreign exchange earnings, possibly up to as much as 150m dollars over the next

year. "Such an improvement in foreign exchange earnings would almost certainly be used to finance increased imports, especially of intermediate materials for manufacturing and capital equipment," the Standard Bank survey says.

It also gave a warning that the tight import and foreign exchange controls imposed because of sanctions "are likely to be a feature of the economic scene for the next five years at the very least and conceivably for a good deal longer".

A finance ministry spokesman in Salisbury said the lifting of the controls would be dictated by the balance of payments situation. "As it improves, they will be eased," he added. Starting today the government will ease restrictions on the amount of money residents can send to Britain. It was given no set figures, saying each transaction is subject to approval by the Reserve Bank.

A finance ministry spokesman said it was not possible to contemplate freeing the millions of dollars in blocked funds which have accumulated in Salisbury since the unilateral declaration of independence in 1965.

The Bank of England last week freed Rhodesian funds in Britain. "All pensions, dividends, salaries, investments and gifts can now be sent to Rhodesia freely," a spokesman said. The total involved was £200m.

Blocked funds, mainly dividend pay-

ments accumulated by non-residents, are conservatively estimated to total at least \$250m—the figure thought to be much higher than the amount in Britain. In addition, the government owes another \$150m on international loans it raised before 1965 for such projects as the Kariba dam.

Clearly, immediate repayment of such funds—equivalent to almost one year's imports at 1978 levels—could not be contemplated" the Standard Bank said. "A 3 to 4 per cent growth rate next year would mean that for the first time since 1974, the growth rate of the economy will have kept pace with population expansion," the Standard Bank survey continued.

Warning that a cautious forecast on the economic future was necessary, it added:

The prolonged fall in real living standards that started in 1974 is unlikely to be fully reversed until 1981 when real growth of the order of 5 per cent to 8 per cent is anticipated.

After shrugging off the initial impact of sanctions, Rhodesia's economy is now in a deep decline. In the first half of 1979, due to a combination of internal recession, escalation of the war and the collapse of the Portuguese government in neighbouring Mozambique, which paved the way for the more effective implementation of sanctions.

Peter Gregson  
Reuter, Salisbury



Photograph by John Manning

Mr Bryan Hildrew (right), with Dr G. S. Hislop, chairman of the Council of Engineering Institutions yesterday.

until early next month but its contents have been widely leaked.

Later, in a veiled reference to the Flinniston report, Mr Hildrew said that changes to the education system would not come quickly. "It is 10 years before the end product walks out into the world and then he has to gain experience. You cannot have a magical effect overnight."

The survey of 28,000 British engineers, says: "The nation's technical standing in the world market must be stimulated, restored and recognized in order to maintain and if possible improve the quality and fabric of life in this country. Therefore, it is fundamental that the decline in rewards for the professional engineer's contribution to the economy be reversed."

Engineers' salaries vary from under £25,000 a year but the survey shows that only after reaching 45 do

British engineers' earnings match other occupations. Engineers have suffered a 10 per cent fall in the real value of their incomes since the peak in 1972/73.

The survey says that two-thirds of chartered engineers have a degree or equivalent but complex jobs often carry less salary than simple jobs. Mr Hildrew said that the growth of the number of graduates in the profession was inevitable "and by the time the Flinniston report is implemented, it will be total".

The survey also shows that commercial responsibility earns engineers over 50 an income differential of almost £2,000 a year; that only 20 per cent of all engineers have a company car; that 45 per cent of chartered engineers and 57 per cent of technician engineers are members of a trade union; that 70 per cent of all engineers work overtime, the largest part of it unpaid.

C E F I C is sufficiently concerned about the implications for the West to have decided to make a twelfth review of the effects of East-West trade, looking closely at the impact of barrier, buy-back and compensation deals.

Its findings will be reported to Directorate General III, the internal market and industrial affairs arm of the European Commission. C E F I C members have also been advised to keep national governments aware of the potential threat posed by trade with the East.

DG III undertook a preliminary study of trade with Eastern Europe, and it is understood that sub-commissions of C E F I C recently completed its own review.

Cheap imports from East Europe have caused a growing concern among both employers and unions in the EEC chemicals industry, especially when the cost of East-West trade, looking closely at the impact of barrier, buy-back and compensation deals.

This concern has focused on the effect of buy-back and compensation deals, by which, for example, whole or part payment for Western technology and plant is made.

The Commission— and member states—are likely to be made aware of the dangers of such trade in coming months. Industrial leaders are likely to stress the need to ensure that East European countries should be encouraged to concentrate exports on products in line with West European market growth.

They will also stress the importance of ensuring that Western-aided plants develop in Eastern Europe match expected domestic demand.

Peter Norman  
Brussels, Dec 18

British synthetic fibre manufacturers must wait until February for action by the European Community to stem the flow of cheap fibre imports from the United States.

ECC Trade Ministers agreed in Brussels today that the European Commission should put specific proposals for action to their meeting in two months' time. Among options are moves in the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the imposition of countervailing duties or anti-dumping charges or the imposition of restrictions under the multi-fibre agreement.

It argues that cooperation in the form of buy-back and other such deals is advantageous to Eastern Europe which lacks hard currency and wants Western technology. But it is disadvantageous to the West because it brings on to the market products whose price does not reflect either costs or market conditions.

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UNEMPLOYMENT  
Monthly figures for Great Britain:

Adult vacancies  
Total, seasonally adjusted  
Number '000s  
% change  
000s

1979  
Dec 1,261 5.3 23

Jan 1,391 5.4 22

Feb 1,368 5.3 228

Mar 1,290 5.4 244

Apr 1,238 4.3 24

May 1,281 4.2 261

June 1,313 5.1 244

July 1,334 5.1 244

Aug 1,324 5.1 244

Sept 1,325 5.2 228

Oct 1,302 5.2 219

Nov 1,302 5.2 219

Dec 1,224 5.2 219

1978  
Total 1,200 5.3 23

Seasonally adjusted  
Number '000s  
% change  
000s

Jan 1,200 5.3 23

Feb 1,200 5.3 228

Mar 1,200 5.3 244

Apr 1,200 5.2 24

May 1,200 5.2 261

June 1,200 5.2 244

July 1,200 5.2 244

Aug 1,200 5.2 244

Sept 1,200 5.2 228

Oct 1,200 5.2 219

Nov 1,200 5.2 219

Dec 1,200 5.2 219

belonging to Debenhams, under a leasing arrangement.

The three stores are Plummers of Southampton, Plummers of Eastbourne and Hills of Hove. All three are competing with Debenhams stores.

Mr Wilson will develop the three stores on a separate basis through a company of which he will be controlling shareholder and managing director. Debenhams will take a market rental together with an indexed profit contribution under an arrangement that starts on March 31.

The new company will have an option, after five years, to buy the freeholds of one or all of the stores at market value.

The objective in the move was to increase the profit contribution from the three stores, according to Mr Bishop.

There are no store assets involved in the sale, said Mr Kenneth Bishop, Debenhams' finance director. But "he's been asked to name the buyer—not a major High Street name—or the price involved."

The system is also behind another reorganization announced yesterday under which Mr Tony Wilson, Debenhams' sales director, will leave to start a new company that will run three South Coast stores.

Derek Harris

## No subsidy for cheap coking coal, NCB told

that they can buy imported coal at £10-£14 a tonne cheaper than the NCB price, but the NCB argues that this is only a short-term situation.

The miners fear that up to 10,000 jobs could be lost if BSC follows through with its import plans.

Mr Howell said that, while the coal industry was considered to be in a generally good state and would continue growing, it must stay within its 1980 finance limits of £824m. He said there would not be "a penny more" than the £25m in Government grants already scheduled.

Steel industry leaders have

argued that they can buy imported coal at £10-£14 a tonne cheaper than the NCB price, but the NCB argues that this is only a short-term situation.

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Steel industry leaders have

sacked on the spot it would take action.

This

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## The CSI's report

Incidentally, the Council for the Securities Industry published its views on Department Trade company investigations on the day that the present Government ordered its first inquiry—into St Piran's events revive what has been a bouldering issue ever since Mr Robert Maxwell kicked against the system eight years ago and suggested that the department's report into Pergamon Press was fair.

All along the central criticism has been at such inquiries smack of Star Chamber justice; that inspectors appointed by the department have too often adopted an inquisitorial attitude towards those who speak before the inquiry, and that investigations take far too long, which more often than not means that by the time the report appears the whole inquiry has lost its point. Unnecessary damage has been caused to a company or innocent individuals. The CSI recognises both these points and makes some forcible recommendations for bring the inquisitorial and literary powers of inspectors. Witnesses should be provided with a guide on the procedure to be followed by inspectors; they should be told in some detail about the matters documents on which they will be examined and the nature of any criticism which will appear in a report on the advice to offer comment.

Most importantly, the CSI says that inspectors should confine themselves to the facts (that presumably means no more carry the horse) remarks such as appeared in the Ralph Hilton report) and avoid character studies of witnesses and adversions on their conduct.

On the question of speeding up the procedure—the CSI is less helpful, though finds the time normally taken in conducting such inquiries, publishing a report and carrying out any necessary prosecutions quite unacceptable.

Anecdotal support is the case of the City Glasgow Bank which closed its doors on October 1, 1878, with losses concealed by entries of £7m. An immediate investigation followed and a report produced on October 18.

The outcome was that by February the following year the directors and the manager of the bank were in prison. "We'd need to get back to a similar sense of urgency in the handling of current cases," says the CSI.

Life has become a good deal more complicated since 1878—but CSI has a point one which the Department of Trade, which earlier this month said it was reviewing the procedure for conducting its company inquiries, will no doubt consider no-one wants to see any corners cut in its area.

Northern Foods

### A year of consolidation

Northern Foods spent the year digesting its acquisitions, preparing its way into the American food producing business with its £2m bid for Bluebird—the subject of today's EGM—and met market expectations by improving pre-tax profits by 14 per cent in a difficult trading period.

Turnover for the year to September 30, 1979 rose 20 per cent to £363m in spite of generally lower demand in the food industry. Pre-tax profits were ahead by only 14 per cent to £25.5m, reflecting the £1m downturn in the group's short-term investment earnings.

Trading profits, however, managed a 23 per cent increase thanks to substantially reduced depreciation charges following a property revaluation. Pork Farms, making first full year contribution, undoubtedly proved the outturn with a 140 per cent increase to £4m against last year's £1.67m trading profit for a seven-month period.

Milk and dairy products, formerly the mainstay of the group's business but now to provide only a third of profits by 81, also did better. And unconfirmed negotiations over January's proposed milk price increase, which will further reduce consumption, are making the group cautious about next year's outlook.

Nevertheless the Bluebird acquisition, avoided the legal wrangle is settled, is set to bring in £5m profit in its nine month run, making a likely overall total of £34m for the current year, provided of course that the group makes the profit it hopes on its home base as the French Lafarge concern has done already.

Recently Blue Circle announced it was spending £23m on the purchase of Chile's largest cement concern and it is thought to be eyeing the growing economies of the Far East as platforms to keep it the world's biggest cement producer.

### Business Diary: NatWest's new guard • A boost for conservation?

The old guard at National Westminster Bank is changing rapidly. The appointment of Sir Rowland Wright as deputy chief executive of domestic business in place of Tom McMillan, comes only a few months after it was announced that Eric Carter would take over from Harold Hitchcock in the parallel job in charge of the international side.

The word in Lombardy is that Wilkinson is being groomed for chief executive job when Sir Ernesto, Sir Ernesto, however, is only 57 and having taken over the job from Alan Gibbs a couple of weeks ago clearly has some time to go. But at 52 Wilkinson has some of his side. He also has the sort of well-rounded experience that would fit him out to run the bank. Starting off in the bank's staff department 26 years ago, Wilkinson has had lengthy spells in branch banking both in the City and provinces. After managing the important Threadneedle Street branch he got his blood in the international sphere when he was seconded to Orion, which has subsequently become one of the most successful consortia banks and spawned a number of top bankers. Most recently Wilkinson has been in charge of the related banking services side of NatWest which includes the finance house subsidiary as well as County Bank, the merchant banking arm,



You can now call accountant John Black (above) a bit of a card with impunity from this week on. Black is the new Master of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, which has been around since 1628. He and his guests at this week's revels at the Mansion House each receive a souvenirs pack of cards whose ace portraiture the incoming master. The reverse tradition only shows a Miss Fortune in this case, a polychrome Mrs Thatcher entering Number Ten. But you've probably seen enough pictures of that.

• Bob Boote plans to go out not with a whimper but a bang when he retires from the editor-in-chief of the Nature Conservancy Council at the end of March.

The beginning of March, however, will see the launching of a national and indeed international conservancy campaign of particular interest to business.

The campaign has one of those appealing titles United Nations agencies so delight in—Conservation for Sustainable Development.

It has been dreamt up by a United Nations agency, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), of which Boote is a vice-president and of which the Nature Conservancy Council—funded by the Government—is the principal British organization. Its retirement Boote will continue to lobby through his IUCN vice-presidency.

In essence, the programme Boote will launch here is the United Kingdom end of the world conservation strategy. There will be all the usual noise about the environment, but, more to the point, pressure for the extension to British companies of tax incentives now available in the United States for companies who set up nature reserves or conduct conservation research or fund voluntary conservancy bodies.

Is the cavalry coming to the rescue of the West German shareholder at last? Although outsiders sometimes think of West Germany as a paradigm of the capitalist virtues, shareholders actually get a raw deal there.

Not only has the value of German stock market investments dropped by about a tenth in the past decade, but German investors also suffer from the fixed-interest mentality of the companies they help to finance.

Accordingly, Siemens has managed to pile up liquid assets of more than 10,000 Deutsche marks while paying an unchanged dividend of DM8 per DMSH share for the past seven years. Among the big chemical companies, which have a reputation of pursuing more flexible dividend policies, Hoechst, for example, cut down the percent-

age of net profit distributed to shareholders to 41 per cent this year from about 57 per cent 10 years ago.

Now, however, the big institutional investors are threatening to flex their muscles.

Wolfgang Reuter, chief executive of the Frankfurt-based unit trust group Union-Investmentsgesellschaft, has declared war on the conservative financial managers of German big business.

He has received valuable backing for no less a man than Wilhelm Christians, one of the two chief executives of the Deutsche Bank.

Christians, whose postbag is full of angry letters from disgruntled shareholders, is now calling on German business to rethink its dividend policy. But the record of the Deutsche

Bank itself is exemplary.

Ross Davies



• The sale by Blue Circle, whose chairman is Sir Rowland Wright (above), of its 10.2 per cent holding in the Canadian Gencstar building materials group to Société Générale de Belgique for £27m has all the appearance of a quasi-rights issue for a company that is spending heavily—almost £60m—at home and overseas against a background of probably no more than static profits in the current year.

No doubt the timing has been dominated more by the buoyancy of the Canadian stock market where Gencstar's shares are trading only 10% above the \$25 price Blue Circle has obtained, and a high this year of 22%, giving it a useful book profit of £22m in the seven years it has had the investment.

At the same time, however, Gencstar is only a trade investment and last year's dividend income of \$3.1m looks nowhere near as exciting on the profit and loss account as the consolidation of associate company profits—the preferred route for overseas expansion—which now make up almost half the group's total.

Increasingly the group's strategy is to concentrate on cement production in developing countries, and move as far away from its home base as the French Lafarge concern has done already.

Recently Blue Circle announced it was spending £23m on the purchase of Chile's largest cement concern and it is thought to be eyeing the growing economies of the Far East as platforms to keep it the world's biggest cement producer.

### Links with American firms

#### C. T. Bowring:

"Pooling" plan with Marsh now aborted; full takeover in the offing. Previous close links with Alexander & Alexander and Frank B. Hall.

#### Minet Holdings:

Broke equity swap arrangement with Frank B. Hall to discuss pooling plan with Corroon and Black.

#### Clarke Chapman:

Clarke Chapman (part of Northern Engineering Industries) 10 per cent; Taylor Woodrow 15 per cent; Sir Robert McAlpine 2.5 per cent; Head Wrightson 0.5 per cent.

#### Taylor Woodrow:

Previously dormant licence agreement with Westinghouse and prepare a final PWR design for safety approval.

#### Corroon:

Has joint North American company with Canadian group Reed Shaw Osler. Continental Corporation recently took 20

#### Per cent stake in Stenhouse.

**Stewart Wrightson:**

Strong presence of its own in United States; bundles business from Marsh, Alexander & Alexander.

#### Willis Faber:

Involved in joint ventures with Johnson & Higgins, including company to operate in NY insurance exchange;

also receives reinsurance business from Marsh subsidiary Guy Carpenter.

#### Lord Leslie & Godwin:

Taken over by Frank B. Hall, 75 per cent of Lloyd's

business interests sold to

Rothschild Investment Trust to satisfy Lloyd's rules on foreign control.

#### No longer quoted.

### Kingdom, and over whom it believes it is able to exercise disciplinary control. American groups anxious to place business at Lloyd's have to put it first to one of these firms and share the commission.

The disparate size of the two groups has almost certainly been one of the main stumbling blocks. Marsh is more than twice the size of the whole Bowring group and its insurance interests dwarf those of the United Kingdom concern.

It wanted the lion's share of and possibly more, especially since much of the Bowring business going into the transatlantic "pool" would have come from the American group in the first place. Bowring, however, could see its identity under threat as a result of any deal the Marsh camp was prepared to offer.

In any other industry good old-fashioned takeover battles would provide the perfect solution to the rationalization of world business, but insurance broking is not like any other business. The reason lies at the centre of the London insurance market—in the 300-year-old Lloyd's insurance exchange.

The attractions were always the Americans, who would prefer to have their own direct access to underwriters in the Lloyd's market. Muters started to come to a head in the early seventies when the Americans began to seek other attractions in British firms, most of all their expertise in world markets outside the United States.

The Americans, who had been one of the main stumbling blocks, have almost certainly been one of the main stumbling blocks. Marsh is more than twice the size of the whole Bowring group and its insurance interests dwarf those of the United Kingdom concern.

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### at the walls of the Lloyd's fortress

and the idea of premium pooling was born.

Then the American groups tended to use several different British firms to ferry business to Lloyd's and the London market on a non-exclusive basis, although building up particularly close relationships with one of two firms.

Marsh, easily the biggest purveyor of United States business to Lloyd's—possibly accounting indirectly for as much as a quarter of the market's premiums—while building up a close link with Bowring, channeled much of its business through other groups like Sedgwick, Alexander, Howden and Stewart Wrightson.

In the longer term Lloyd's itself is under some threat unless it can come up with a compromise to satisfy the Americans' aspirations. Plans for a rival "Lloyd's" in America have still not proved fully workable, but if the Americans can make a success of their own insurance exchange the pressure will be on Lloyd's to open its doors wider—or see business switched away.

Marsh has said that, if successful in a Bowring bid, it will accede to Lloyd's wishes on foreign control. On the longer view, however, its ambitions must be more far-reaching.

**Richard Allen**

### FMC LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

#### Group Unaudited Results For the 24 weeks ended 13 October, 1979

52 weeks ended 26 April, 1979	24 weeks ended 13 Oct., 1978
£'000	£'000
452,510	210,630
78,388	33,584
	231,014
	238,574
533,098	
3,083	1,884
2,533	1,610
	987
2,498	
15	674
Group Profit before associated companies	627
Share of associated companies' losses, less, profits	118
2,513	609
602	300
	309
1,911	320
183	106
	105
1,728	
Group Profit after Extraordinary Items	320
212	106
	105
1,516	
Earnings for Ordinary Shares	224
	203

The recovery reflected in last year's results has been sustained, with difficult high rates of interest now masking some real improvements in trading and management performance. These interim results were also adversely affected by a weak market for New Zealand lamb and a severe decline in hide values. Continuing losses at the Britain abattoir have now been arrested and negotiations

## Property

### Small businesses at home

Combining a home with a small business is a good way of securing a little extra income. Given sufficient space, the choice of operations is wide, but local planning authority consent is required.

One such property for sale is The Old Neptune, a former inn in Ipswich, reputed to be one of the oldest buildings in the town. It has a grade two listing of special architectural or historic interest.

It is built around three

sides of an attractive court-yard and combines a house with a part used as an antiques showroom.

It would be equally well suited as a restaurant, art gallery, or offices, subject to planning consent. The house is close to the River Orwell, the quayside and the old customs house, and is not far from the town centre.

Most of the rooms have mulioned windows and exposed beams. Accommodation includes dining hall, drawing room, games room and study. The main bedroom suite includes a shower and sauna, there are seven other bedrooms.

Outside, the courtyard has been made into a focal point, with a patio, a raised fishpond and many climbing plants. The property is expected to realize well over £100,000, and the agent is the Colchester office of Savills.

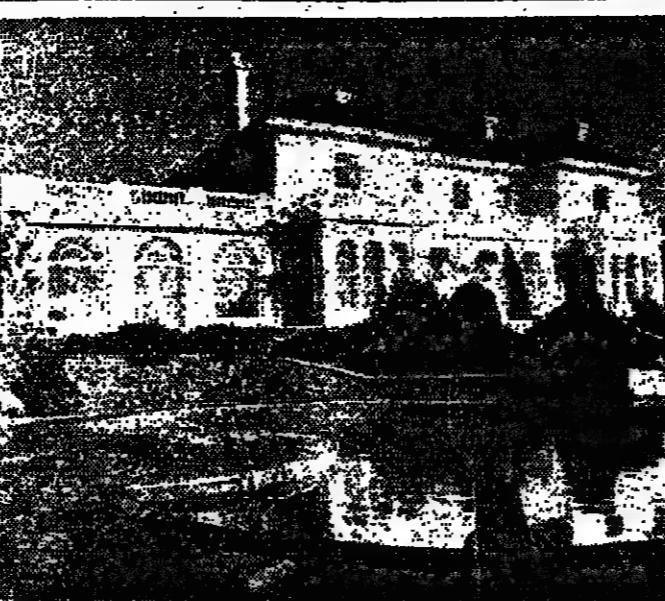
The London office of the same agent is concerned with the sale of one of the finest houses in Jersey. It is

The Grove, at Mount Cambrai, in the parish of St Lawrence, which overlooks St Helier.

The sale is in conjunction with Beck and Dean, of St Helier, the Jersey agents. The price quoted is £875,000. The Grove possibly dates from the late 1800s and is approached by long drive through its 15 acres of grounds. Completely modernized, it has four main reception rooms, study, billiards room and playroom, five bed rooms and four bath rooms.

There are three self-contained guest flats, a staff house divided into two flats and a cottage. The grounds include two heated swimming pools, a lake and a paddock.

Those who are fond of rural areas would like Whitehall, at Beaulieu, in Hampshire, which is in a conservation area on the edge of the New Forest. The house dates from the late eighteenth century and has nineteenth-century additions; it has a



The Grove, Mount Cambrai, Jersey, for sale at £875,000.

grade two listing of special architectural or historic interest.

It is built of colour-washed brick under an old tiled roof,

with sash and casement windows, and is thought at one time to have been a personage. It is near the village centre and has three recep-

tion rooms, five bedrooms and two attic rooms.

The secluded garden is partly walled. About £97,500 is being asked through Strutt and Parker, of London and Salisbury.

Rather larger is Great Everden, at Alkham, near Dover, Kent; it also has a grade two listing. The house is mainly of sixteenth-century or seventeenth-century origin, although traces of a building thought to date from the twelfth century can be seen inside.

There are four main reception rooms, and a breakfast room off the kitchen. Several of these have good exposed timbering. Upstairs there are seven bedrooms. Gardens and grounds extend to about 6½ acres and include two grass paddocks. Outbuildings are extensive, among them is a stable for four horses and three loose boxes with a hay loft above them.

In the grounds are a roundel oasthouse and a barn now partly converted as a games room. The property is

offered at £130,000 through Geering and Colyer, of Ashford.

A small property with potential for extension is Elms Oaks, at Tilford, near Farnham, in Surrey. It is a detached cottage with walls which are mainly roughcast, but part brick, it has a tiled roof and metal-framed windows.

Planning permission has

been obtained for a two-storey extension to provide a larger sitting room and an extra bedroom with bathroom, and there is also permission for the construction of a garage.

Presently there is a sitting room, combined dining room and kitchen, a downstairs bathroom, and two bedrooms upstairs. Land is available for extension. Offers over £40,000 are being asked for the cottage with one acre, or £50,000 with a total of 4½ acres. The agents are Messrs May Baverstock, of Farnham.

An interesting sale has

been that of The Gardener's

Gerald Ely



## Residential property



### LAND FOR SALE

#### ALTON, HANTS.

A stone-made building with outline planning permission for 24 dwellings. Asking £12,100.

Planning permission.

£12,100. Tel: 0420 2222.

### LONDON AND SUBURBAN

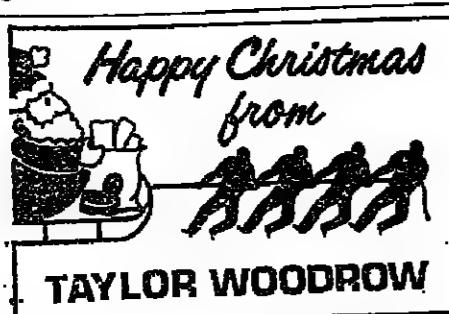
#### Start & Livendale

at 91 High St., London NW1.

PORDINGTON ROAD,

1½ miles from Charing Cross.





**TAYLOR WOODROW**

# Stock Exchange Prices **Equities drift lower**

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 27. § Contango Day, Dec 28. Settlement Day, Jan.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

# BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY

## 1,000 Premium Bond prizewinners

£1,000 prizewinners in the Premium Bond draw

England, Cumbria, Durham

Tyne and Wear

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4 RR 62643

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## PERSONAL CHOICE



SECTION OF THE EARLY MUSIC GROUP FROM NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD: FANTASY FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS (ITV, 4.45)

day's young musicians are not necessarily (if fact rarely) tomorrow's virtuosi, and it does not matter all that much if they aren't. What does matter is that they enjoy music making and that they might even win a £5,000 prize into the bargain. That would appear to be the underlying philosophy of *Fantasy for Young Musicians* (ITV, 4.45), the BBC's television contest which reaches its climax tonight with the announcement of the winning combination. There are four finalists out of the 200 groups of hopefuls who sent in tapes, and we already seen how confidently the 30 who were eventually selected faced the cameras in earlier bouts.

Is with mixed feelings that I bid farewell to Donald (every weekly series *Discovering English Churches* C 2.30). They have been painstakingly researched and expertly photographed and the attempt to kill off dead trees with living people has largely been successful. But I feel Mr Sladen is not an ideal guide. His style has unerringly theatrical. *Discovering English Churches*—that would be right up his street.

There is no end to the fragmentation of Count Dracula (C 1.17.7). When shown for the first time, in December it was in one piece. For the repeat, it was split down the middle and the two halves were shown separately. Tonight's offering is the first of three to be shown on successive nights. May I think this is a case of spreading the blood a bit thin. Not there is plenty for everybody. In fact, Philip Saville's (see *Personal Choice*) Korea war come-

has not been a good run of Masterminds for the female. Only one woman has got through to the semi-finals, but Beatrice Syms from Dublin, can still make it to the finals if she knows a thing or two (or 15) about Jane Austen. Tonight's offering of nerves and knowledge features the four highest-scoring entries from the 13 previous heats. Mrs Syms' fellow contestants will be asked questions about the mountains of land, George Borrow and British prime ministers (BBC 1).

tonight's radio feature *Voices from a Promised Land* (Radio 4.00) draws its inspiration from the fact that Israel buy more per head than any other country in Europe. The programme, presented by Ian Trewin, lately literary editor of *Times*, and compiled by Anat Feinberg, examines the richly ed strands representing the many cultures and races which make up Israel's literary tapestry.

AT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO; \* BLACK AND WHITE; REPEAT.

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

12.45 am News and weather.  
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Programme presenter Marlan Foster goes to the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh to see the young boy and girl sponsored by Pebble Mill at One for the Year of the Child.  
1.45 Once Upon a Moon: Wheely and Wire (r). Close down at 2.00.  
3.25 Pobol y Cwrs: for Welsh viewers.  
3.35 Play School: the story is Christmas Spiders told by Chloe Ashcroft and Johnny Ball.  
4.20 Picnic and Dixie cartoon. High Jinks (r).  
4.45 Jacob's Ladder: Spike Milligan returns for part 2 of John Antrobus's Help! I am a Prisoner in a Toothpaste Factory.  
4.48 Tom and Jerry: cartoon. The Night Before Christmas (r).  
4.50 John Craven's Newsround: junior newsread.

5.00 Rent-a-Santa: Three ghosts are hired to play Father Christmas in a department store where a pantomime is being staged.  
5.40 News: with Kenneth Kendall.  
5.55 National Service.  
6.45 Angels: the question mark still hangs over the future of the hospital's casualty department.  
7.00 The Devil and Daniel Blue: Kirk versus the Thing from another place.  
7.00 Newsmaster: Semi-final, featuring the best of the runners-up, including the only woman still left in the contest (see *Personal Choice*).  
7.30 Faculty Towers: Basil hasn't really forgotten his and Sybil's wedding anniversary. He just pretends that he has (r).  
7.50 News with Peter Woods.  
8.25 Roman's Travels: Final segment of Robin Roman's circular odyssey across India. He calls on some Brits still living in Sinal and visits the Lucknow public school which features in Kipling's Kim.

8.30 VARNATIONS: Water: 8.35 pm Transmitters close down. 9.00 Current Affairs and 9.30 Today. 10.45 Weather.

11.00 News with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

11.30 Countdown at 11.25.

5.40 Laurel and Hardy: Their Hail, Stanley and Oliver, caravanning, find a well filled with bootleggers' liquor.

5.50 Adventure at Sea: final part of *Tigrid—the Sunstruck Voyage of the Heyerdahl*. The final, fatal decision after travelling 3,000 miles.

6.50 Cricket: Highlights from the fifth day's play of the first Test between Australia and England. From Perth.

7.00 M\*A\*S\*H: Korea war comes-

dies. Tonight, a pregnancy test on *Hill Lips* proves difficult to arrange.

7.45 A Kind of Childhood: how a little Japanese blind girl took part in an education experiment that is now famous in Japan—the success in integration of sightless children in a school intended for the sighted.

8.00 Discovering English Churches: Final programme in the series. Donald Stoten visits two churches in the Gothic revival style, Sir George Gilbert Scott's St Mark's, Worley, Greater Manchester, and All Souls', Halcy Hill, Halifax. (See *Personal Choice*).

9.00 M\*A\*S\*H: Korea war comes-

## BBC 2

10.20 Gharbar: for Asian women viewers. Closedown at 10.45.

11.00 Play School: the show is back 11.35. Closedown at 11.25.

5.40 Laurel and Hardy: Their Hail, Stanley and Oliver, caravanning, find a well filled with bootleggers' liquor.

5.50 Adventure at Sea: final part of

*Tigrid—the Sunstruck Voyage of the Heyerdahl*.

The final, fatal decision after travelling 3,000 miles.

6.50 Cricket: Highlights from the fifth day's play of the first Test between Australia and England. From Perth.

7.00 M\*A\*S\*H: Korea war comes-

dies. Tonight, a pregnancy test on *Hill Lips* proves difficult to arrange.

7.45 Playhouse: Speed King. Roger Milner's play about Sir Malcolm Campbell and how he set a land speed record of over 300 mph in Bluebird in 1932. Robert Hardy plays Campbell. Jennifer Blair is in the cast.

8.00 News with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

8.30 Regional news, weather.

9.00 News with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

9.30 Scissors: cartoon from Czechoslovakia.

10.15 General Hospital: pathologist Lee Partman returns.

3.45 Hobson's Choice: studio interview, with Derek Hobson putting the questions.

4.15 Kidsworld: for young viewers.

7.30 Scissors: cartoon from Czechoslovakia.

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9.30 Fanfare for Young Musicians: results of this long running competition (see *Personal Choice*).

10.15 The Practice: medical world drama.

11.15 News. 6.00 Thame News.

12.15 Help! I'm a Shonien Information feature.

12.35 Crossroads: more about those motel folk.

1.00 This is Your Life: another of Eamonn Andrews's biographies.

1.30 The Big Top Variety Show: entertainment in a circus tent. Bernie Winters and Moira Anderson head the bill.

2.00 The Racing Game: Horseplay. Among Dick Francis's race-track thriller. This one is about the kidnapping of a valuable horse.

2.00 News.

2.30 Eye: Tonight's edition does what so many current affairs programmes are doing this week and next: looking back over the past decade.

3.15 Focus for Life: Family Matters. Looking after handicapped children.

4.00 The Andy Williams Show: an American singer, with Jose Feliciano as his guest.

4.25 am Close: Another Andrew Cruckshank reading from *Through the Year with J. B. Phillips*.

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"My dear Hall call on my name,  
and I will have them I will say,  
as it is my people; and there shall  
be no end to my God."

**BIRTHS**  
BIGGS-DAVISON.—On 17th Decem-  
ber at Buntingford, Hertfordshire,  
John and Linda, a daughter, Anna.  
BOYD.—On December 5th, at  
Vivian, General Hospital, to  
John Jonathan Will am  
John Jonathan Will am  
BOYK.—On December 17th, at  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary, Lancs.,  
John William, son of Mr. and Mrs.  
John William and Jeanne.  
BOYD.—On December 17th, at  
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John William, son of Mr. and Mrs.  
John William and Jeanne.  
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John William, son of Mr. and Mrs.  
John William and Jeanne.  
BOYD.—On December 17th, at  
Buntingford, Hertfordshire, John  
William, son of Mr. and Mrs.  
John William and Jeanne.

BRUCE.—On December 12, at Blun-

thorne, Matlock, Derbyshire, to  
John Simon, a brother for

HAKIM.—On Tuesday, December

19, at St. Mary's, Paddington, Lond.

John Hakim, son of Mr. and Mrs.

John and Mary Hakim.

JOHN.—On December 17th, at

Woolwich, London, to

John John, a son of Mr. and Mrs.

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